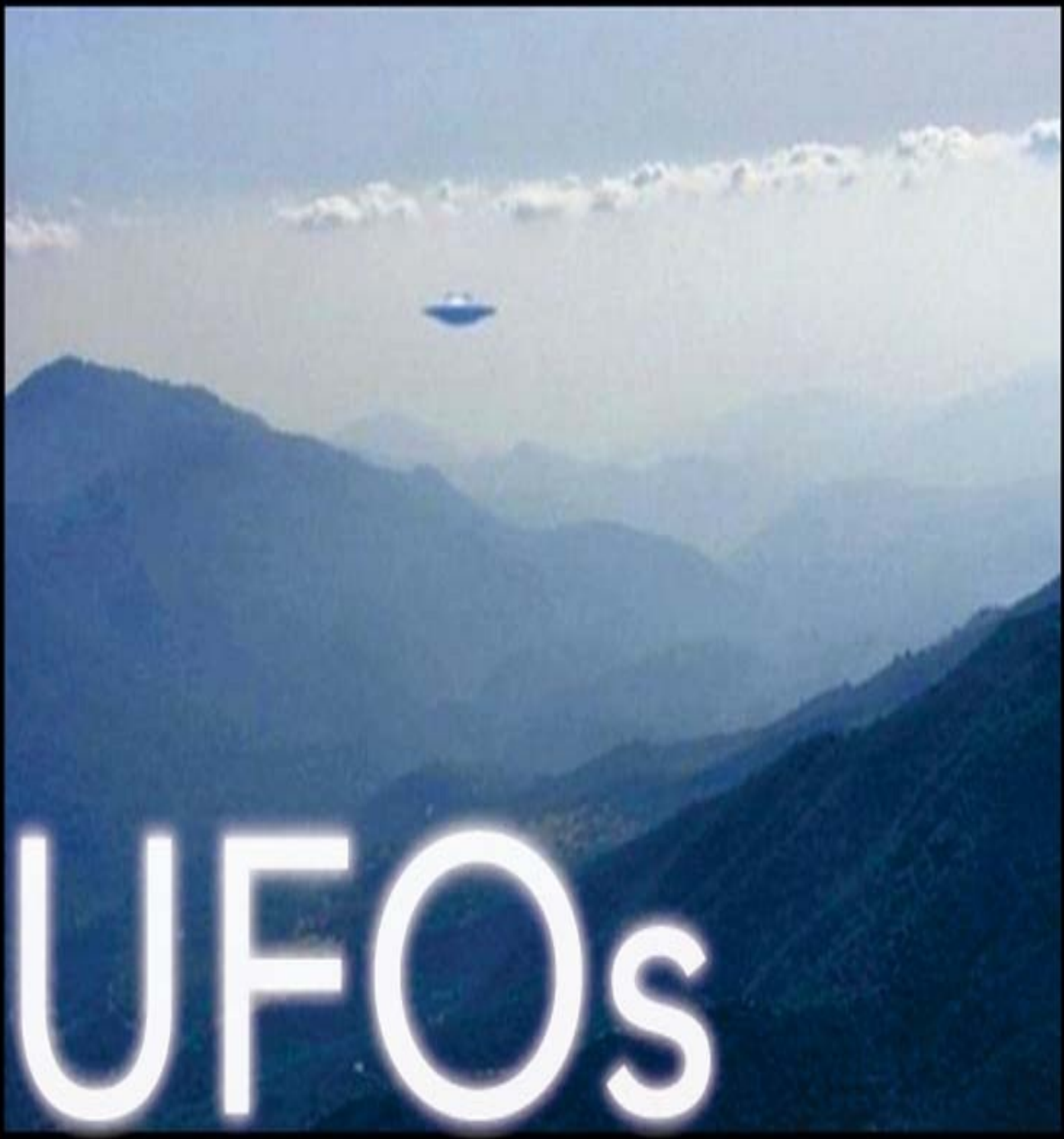
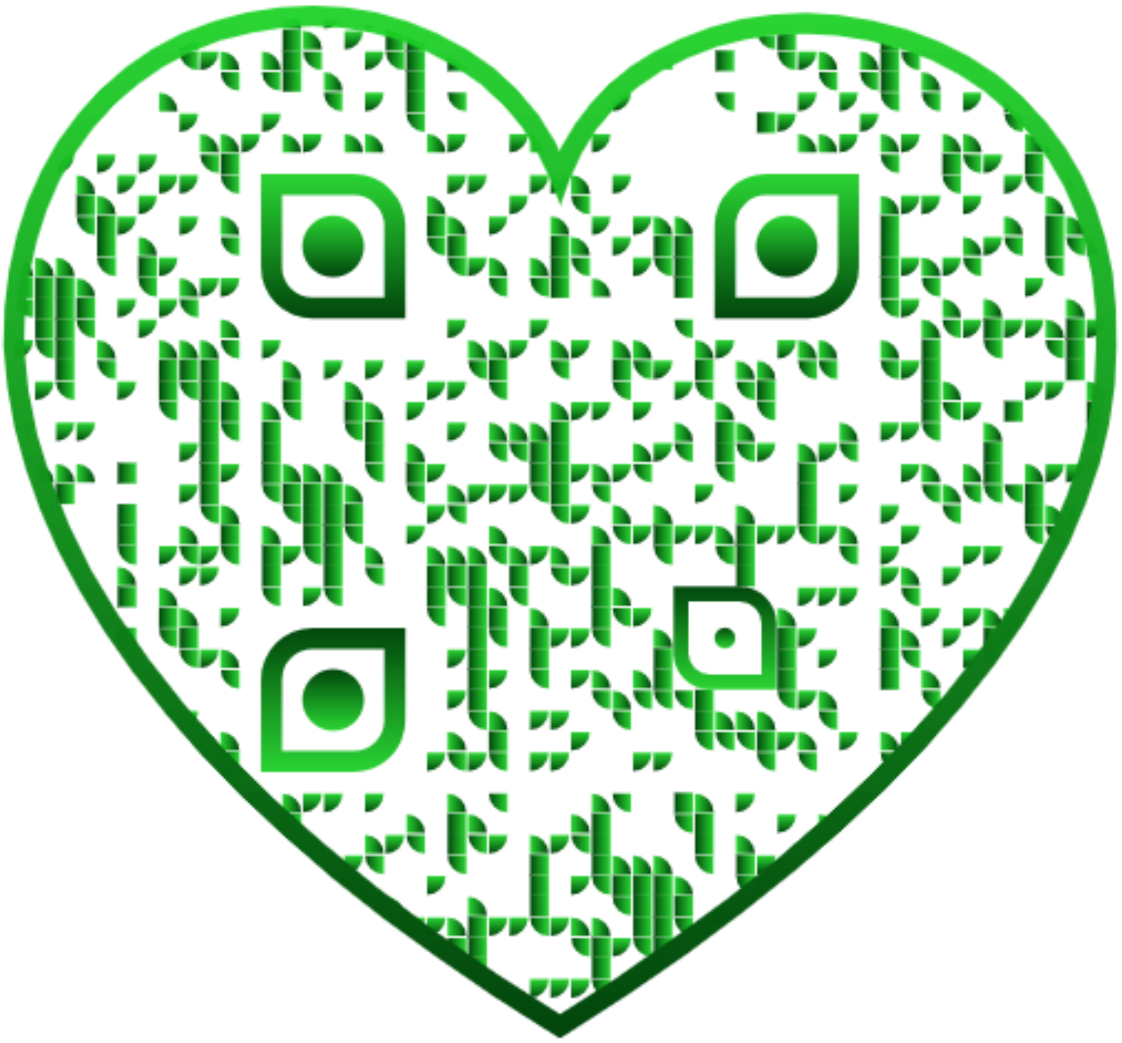


UFOs

CAUGHT ON FILM

AMAZING EVIDENCE OF ALIEN VISITORS TO EARTH

B J BOOTH



UFOS
CAUGHT ON FILM

AMAZING EVIDENCE OF ALIEN VISITORS TO EARTH

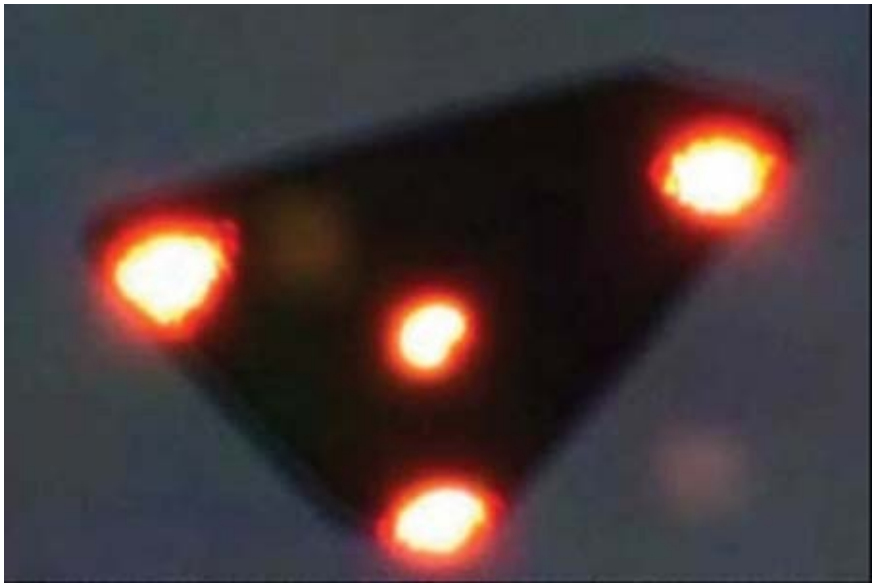
B J BOOTH

D&C
David and Charles

EARLY SIGHTINGS (1800s–1940s)

THE GOLDEN AGE OF FLYING SAUCERS (1950s–60s)

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AND BEYOND (1970s–80s)



THE X FILES (1990s)

EVERYONE'S GOT A CAMERA (Latest sightings)

Contents

INTRODUCTION

EARLY SIGHTINGS (1800s–1940s)
1870 – Mt. Washington, New Hampshire
1927 – Oregon
1942 – Los Angeles, California – ‘The Battle of Los Angeles’
1947 – Outer Hebrides, Scotland

THE GOLDEN AGE OF FLYING SAUCERS (1950s–60s)
1950 – McMinnville, Oregon – ‘The Paul Trent Photographs’
1951 – Lubbock, Texas – ‘The Lubbock Lights’
1952 – Lac Chauvet, France
1952 – Passiac, New Jersey
1952 – Salem, Massachusettes
1952 – Washington D.C.
1955 – Namur, Belgium
1955 – Rosetta, Kwa-Zulu Natal – ‘The Drakensberg Photos’
1965 – Tulsa, Oklahoma
1966 – Roaring River, Missouri
1967 – Calgary, Alberta
1967 – East Woonsocket, Rhode Island

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AND BEYOND (1970s–80s)
1970 – Tagish Lake, Yukon Territory
1971 – Lake Cote, Costa Rica
1974 – Albiosc Tavernes, France

1976 – Canary Islands, Spain
1978 – Colfax, Wisconsin
1981 – Vancouver, British Columbia
1987 – Gulf Breeze, Florida
1987 – Waterbury, Connecticut

THE X FILES (1990s)
1989–1990 – The Belgium Triangles
1991 – Grangemouth, Scotland
1992 – Tepoztlan, Mexico
1993 – Meridian, Idaho
1993 – Ocotlan, Jalisco, Mexico
1996 – Szabolcs-Szatmar, Hungary

EVERYONE'S GOT A CAMERA (Latest sightings)
2001 – Foster City, California
2001 – Mammoth Mountain, California
2003 – Plymouth, Devon
2003 – Weyauwega, Wisconsin
2004 – Big Bear Mountain, California
2004 – Copalar, Chiapas and the State of Campeche, Mexico
2004 – Provo Canyon, Utah
2004 – Sri Lanka
2004 – Taipei, Taiwan
2004 – Ticul, Yucatan State, Mexico
2005 - Avare, Brazil
2005 – Kaufman, Texas
2006 – Sierra de la Ventana, Buenos Aires
2006 – Ipiales, Colombia
2006 – Kaufman, Texas

2007 – Escondido, California
2007 – Moonta, Australia
2007 – Oregon
2007 – Texas
2008 – Winnipeg, Manitoba
2008 – Galacia, Spain
2008 – Indiana
2009 – Costa Rica
2009 – Ely, Cambridgeshire
2009 – Estonia
2009 – Lake Havasu, Arizona
2009 – London
2009 – Long Beach, California
2009 – North Carolina
2009 – Palmerston, Queensland
2009 – Telford, Shropshire
2009 – Texas
2009 – Turkey
2009 – Wurzburg, Germany
2010 – Acojeja, Tenerife
2011 – Sydney–Melbourne Flight
2011 – Mackinaw Island, Michigan
2011 – Nashville, Tennessee
2011 – South Kearny, New Jersey
2011 – Texas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PICTURE CREDITS

Introduction

It is often considered that the Kenneth Arnold sighting and the Roswell case of 1947 signal the beginning of Ufology. But reports of unknown flying objects were made thousands of years before the first image was fixed on a metal plate in the 1820s. In Val Camonica, Italy, ancient paintings, dated around 10,000 BC, depict what many believe to be ancient astronauts. Many respected historians have suggested that these visitors, who possessed knowledge far superior to ours, were extremely influential in advancing our technology, our religions and cultures.

According to Zecharia Sitchin, visitors known as the Anunnaki visited our planet 450,000 years ago. They came, he believes, from a planet far beyond Neptune, called Nibiru. His theories are controversial, and many scholars of early cultures have argued that his interpretations are faulty, but many people believe that these visitors helped to build ancient structures such as the pyramids of Egypt. Many early constructions across the globe seem to have been decorated with depictions of what appear to be flying machines and their pilots.

I was raised during the 1950s and 60s, the Golden Age of sci-fi movies and, from the very first, I was hooked. The possibility of space travel and life on other planets has shaped my work for 50 years. During this time I have researched thousands of cases and studied numerous alleged photographs and videos of UFOs. It is an ongoing mission.

Ultimately, in 2000, after serving as a writer and editor on various internet websites, I created my own site, www.ufocasebook.com. Since then, I have had hundreds of photographs sent to me and I research each one as deeply as possible, seeking to answer, ‘Are we alone in the Universe?’

The photographs in this book are only a small portion of the vast range of great images that have captured what we call UFOs – unidentified flying objects. They raise many interesting questions.

So, journey with me, as we take a look at what I believe are some of the best photographs of UFOs from around the world. I hope they pique your interest.

Early Sightings: (1800s–1940s)

One of the very first sightings of what could have been a UFO occurred as early as 1865. Fortunately, there are still newspaper accounts of this and other early sightings. In this year, *The Missouri Democrat* newspaper published a report from a trapper called James Lumley who claimed to have seen an unidentified, bright luminous body in the sky near the Upper Missouri River. The next day, he reported that he had found a crashed craft of some type that had cut a path through the woods. He claimed that the object had different compartments and hieroglyphic-like symbols carved into its surfaces. The incident signalled the beginning of UFO reports in America and around the world.

One of the most notable events during this period was the legend of the UFO which crashed into the small town of Aurora, Texas in 1897. The story was eventually made into a movie. Another legend that morphed into a popular UFO mystery, was the case of an alleged UFO crash in Missouri in 1941. The event was published in Leo Stringfield's book *UFO Crash / Retrievals: The Inner Sanctum*, which brought the case serious credibility.

During US-German dogfights in World War II, a number of unidentified balls of light were recurrently seen by both sides. They seemed to follow military aircraft at high speed. The 415th Nightfighter Squadron named these strange phenomena 'foo fighters'. The sightings were regular and they began to be formally reported from 1944. Both sides worried that their enemy had developed a new, secret technology. The mystery of what the foo fighters might have been and why they were there has never been adequately resolved.

The so-called 'modern age' of UFOs began in 1947. At this time, fascinating reports fuelled the public's imagination after pilot Kenneth

Arnold reported sighting a succession of nine supersonic bright lights around his plane. Hardly had people had time to catch their breath when, within a month, rumours of the alleged Roswell crash (see footnote from 1947 – Outer Hebrides, Scotland) brought the idea of unidentified flying objects to the forefront of the general public's consciousness.

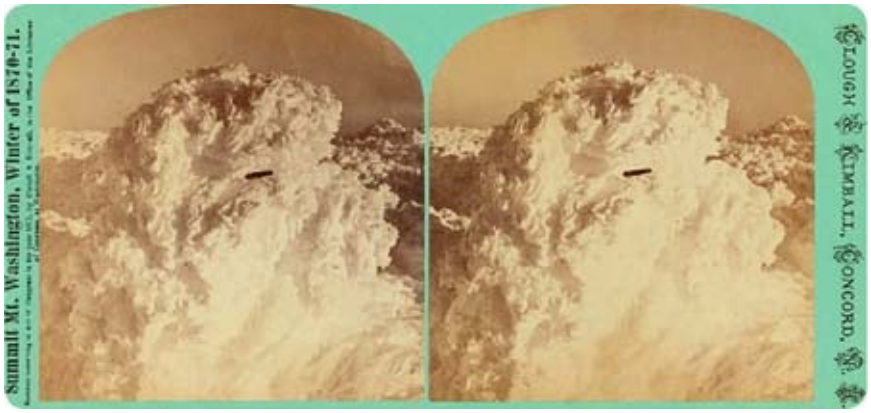
Sadly, not every recorded event has been caught on camera. Luckily, many have been and, therefore, here is an inspiring collection of early images for you to ponder.

The oldest UFO photograph ever taken

1870 – Mt. Washington, New Hampshire
This photograph was taken looking towards Mt. Washington. On top of the mountain is a weather observatory where some of the world's highest winds have been recorded. In 1870, photographic equipment was installed at the facility to capture cloud formations. The newly installed camera produced an extremely interesting image in stereo format of an unknown flying object. Because there were no planes in the air during that era, what we have here is a UFO. But where did this craft come from? And what was it doing?

This image shows what appears to be a cigar-shaped object. The stereo image was registered by Clough & Kimball in 1871. Often called 'the oldest UFO photograph ever taken,' it was the subject of a bidding war on eBay in 2002, when finally the photo was purchased for $385 by Samuel M. Sherman, the president of Independent-International Pictures Corp.

'…there were no planes in the air during that era…'



We are left with more questions than answers

1927 – Oregon
Some photographs etch themselves in your memory: this is one of them. A large disc-shaped object moves above and beyond a group of trees. What is it? Where is it going? Is it real? In the late twenties, when this was taken, it was quite hard to fake a photograph. If it is, then is that a navigation station sitting above the disc? We are left with more questions than answers. We know that it was taken in Cave Junction, Oregon but we don't know who took it. Reportedly it was captured on film by a local volunteer fireman. Anyone seeing the photograph at the time would have called it a 'spaceship' (as UFOs had been known since their early recordings in the 19th and through the early years of the following century).

'Anyone seeing (it), would have called it a "spaceship".'

People fell out of their beds in fear

1942 – Los Angeles, California – 'The Battle of Los Angeles'
At 2:25am on the 25th of February 1942, alarm sirens blared out across Los Angeles. People fell out of their beds in fear for it was only a few months since the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. They knew that the sirens were to be used in the face of another attack. The anxious and terrified inhabitants were told that a blackout was being enforced across the city after strange flying objects had been spotted both on radar and moving through the sky at high speed above the sleeping populace. Search lights probed the heavens and at 3:16am, anti-aircraft guns opened fire on several red or silver-plated objects coming in from the ocean at high speed and flying in formation. Witnesses saw in horror that they were untouched by the barrage of anti-aircraft artillery salvos. According to contemporary reports, this large object was hit by many anti-aircraft projectiles without apparently taking on any damage. It eventually disappeared into the night sky leaving Los Angeles witnesses agog and the story has passed into UFO legend as one of the most

famous incidents of the twentieth century. This compelling photograph is purported to be evidence of what has become known as ‘The Battle of Los Angeles’.

‘…they were untouched by the barrage of anti-aircraft artillery salvos.’

Spotted during the rash of 1947 sightings

1947 – Outer Hebrides, Scotland
This haunting image of a metallic, two-layered spacecraft has never been explained away. The mysterious craft was captured on film as it flew above an island in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland in 1947. The object has never been identified as any known aircraft. As with all photographs

of this subject matter, there have been attempts by debunkers to assert that the object was nothing but an everyday object thrown into the air and then photographed. Nevertheless, Ufologists treat this incident with interest because it occured in 1947 when a rash of sightings of strange and unidentified flying craft were being continually reported all over the world. It is no suprise therefore that the term 'flying saucer' came into modern parlance during this busy period. 1947 is a very important year for Ufologists as this was the date of the Roswell Incident*, and it also marks the time that even more experts were becoming convinced that these sightings could have an extra-terrestrial explanation.

'…the term "flying saucer" came into modern parlance…'

*The Roswell Incident describes a now infamous event when something, as yet unidentified, crashed and was recovered near Roswell, New Mexico in June or July of 1947. Rumours abounded that the US government were covering up proof of the existence of alien life. No other UFO case has received such world-wide attention. It is still controversial.

The Golden Age of Flying Saucers (1950s–60s)

These years were filled with extraordinary cases, many of which are still being investigated today.

The golden age of UFOs was ushered in on a wave of sightings from around the world. In 1950, one of the first alleged encounters with an alien was reported in Varese, Italy. In May of that year, the famous Trent photographs were taken (see 1950 – McMinnville, Oregon).

Then, two famous motion picture films of UFOs were revealed; the 'Great Falls, Montana film' taken on August 15, by Nicolas Mariana, and the 'Tremonton, Utah colour film' taken in July by D.C. Newhouse. The Montana film was originally listed as 'top-secret'. However, when the Great Falls film was released by the military it was of poor quality, and Mariana claimed that much of his original footage had been removed. The Utah footage was taken at fairly close range, and showed flat, circular objects, shaped like two saucers. The film was submitted to US Naval authorities, who forwarded it to the US Air Force. They studied it for several months. According to Mr Newhouse, frames of the movie were missing when the film was returned.

The 1951 Fort Monmouth, New Jersey event had it all; confirmed sightings on radar and UFOs seen by pilots. In 1953, pilot Lt. Felix Moncla disappeared along with his Scorpion F-89C as he chased a UFO over Lake Superior. In 1954, in Australia, pilot Lieutenant J.A. O'Farrell saw a UFO approach his aircraft (an official Navy file on the case was kept secret until the early 1980s).

An entire new chapter in Ufology began in 1961, when Betty and Barney Hill claimed that they had been abducted from their vehicle by aliens.

And in 1964, patrolman Lonnie Zamora saw an unknown flying object land in Socorro, New Mexico. He observed several small beings before the craft took off again. In 1965, numerous witnesses, including policemen, saw UFOs in Exeter, New Hampshire; the extraordinary events were described in detail in John Fuller's book, *Incident at Exeter*.

Motion picture cameras were being mass-produced by the 1950s. By this time also, most people could afford to purchase an easy-to-use camera. Colour film was also becoming more commonplace. Polaroid and Kodak produced the first instant cameras, which both took photographs and developed them immediately. Suddenly anybody could record a scene. Still, at this time, most consumers were using black-and-white film (although all images could potentially be manipulated).

A disc-like craft hovered in the sky

1950 – McMinnville, Oregon – 'The Paul Trent Photographs'
The photographs taken by Paul Trent on the evening of 11 May 1950 are some of the most famous images of an unidentified flying object ever taken, That day, Paul's wife, Evelyn was feeding the family livestock when she noticed a disc-like craft hovering in the sky to her northwest. She called out to her husband to come and see the strange phenomenon and he captured it on film, taking two pictures. The roll of film was developed at their local pharmacy a couple of weeks later and immediately the news spread like wildfire beyond McMinnville and soon the photographs had been revealed to an international audience. Billy Power, the journalist on the *Telephone Register* which ran with the story, had the opportunity to examine the negatives. He found no reason to believe that they had been tampered with and the images were declared genuine.

'…the most famous images of an unidentified

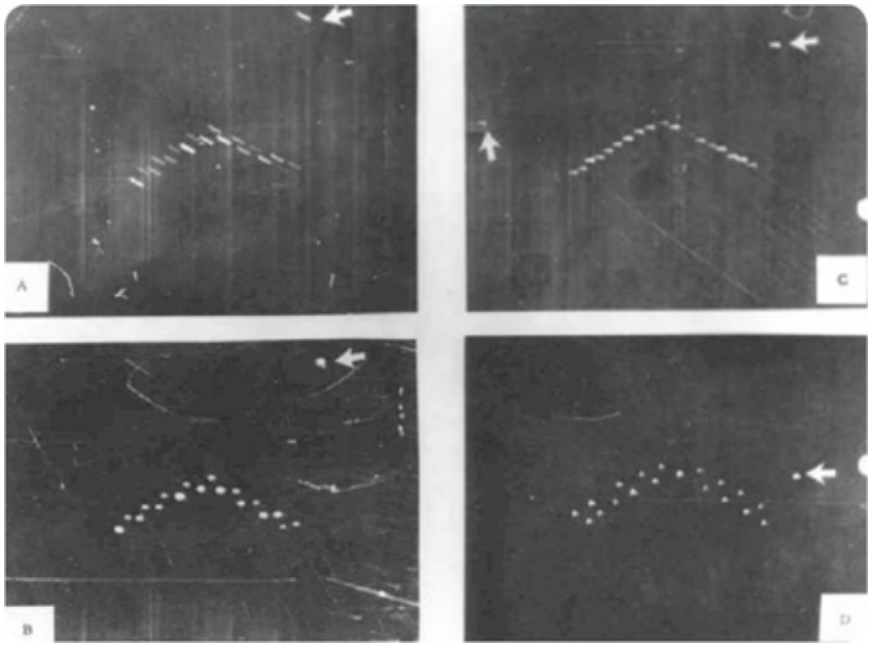
flying object…’

Lights raced noiselessly through the air

1951 – Lubbock, Texas – ‘The Lubbock Lights’
At 9:10pm on 25 August 1951, Dr W.I. Robinson, a professor of geology, stood in his back yard in Lubbock, Texas chatting with colleagues Dr A.G. Oberg, a professor of chemical engineering, and Professor W.L. Ducker, head of the department of petroleum engineering. Suddenly all three men saw a number of lights race noiselessly across the sky, travelling from horizon to horizon in a few seconds. They estimated later that there had been about 30 luminous bead-shaped objects, flying in a crescent formation. A few moments later, another similar phenomenon flashed across the night sky. This time the scientists were able to judge that the lights moved through 30 degrees of arc in a second. The next day they checked with the Air Force who confirmed that no planes had been flying in the area at the time of their sightings. This seemed extraordinary to the men but the incident was not to be unique: Professor Ducker observed 12 more flights of the luminous objects

between August and November. Furthermore, hundreds of non-scientific observers, in a wide vicinity around Lubbock, saw as many as three flights of the mysterious crescents in one night. On 30 August, 18-year-old Carl Hart Jr. attempted to photograph the lights (using his 35mm Kodak camera at f3.5, 1/10 of a second). Working rapidly, Hart managed to get five exposures of the flights, four of which are reproduced here.

‘…the Air Force confirmed that no planes had been flying in the area…’



Credible mid-20th-century evidence from France

1952 – Lac Chauvet, France

The term ‘UFO’ was first used in a 1952 US Air Force study into the

phenomena. That same year, on 18 July, engineer and photographer Andre Fregnale spotted a disc-shaped object flying through the wide blue sky above him as he walked around Lac Chauvet in France. He watched it for several hours and took four photographs, each of them good and clear, estimating that it cruised at an altitude of about 300m (approximately 1,000ft). The photographs were developed by astronomer Pierre Guerin, who judged them to be authentic photographs of a UFO. The photographs gained recognition throughout the world and in 1994, the photographs underwent professional examination by Pierre Guerin, professor at the Institute d'Astrophysique in Paris. A mathematical model of the object was used to ascertain that the object was really flying through the sky and that therefore the photographs were credible. The images were also examined by GEPAN* who also agreed that the object was a genuine UFO.

'GEPAN...agreed that the object was a genuine UFO.'

Backyard visitor hovers then

accelerates away

1952 – Passiac, New Jersey
On the afternoon of 29 July 1952, George Stock and his friend John H. Riely spotted an unknown flying object from Stock's backyard. While Riely kept an eye on the UFO, Stock ran to grab his camera. He took five black-and-white photographs which reveal what visited them that day; a disc-like flying craft with what clearly looks like a cupola on top. The men estimated the object to be about 10m (approximately 30ft) in diameter and made of something which looked like metal, with the cupola appearing to be of a semi-transparent material. It seemed to fly about 60m (200ft) above the ground. It hovered for a moment then accelerated as it flew away.

The photographs were published by *The Morning Call,* in Patterson, New Jersey, on 3 August that year. Riely stated memorably that the object appeared so close that it could have been shot with a rifle.

'…the object appeared so close it could have been shot with a rifle.'

Four bright lights in the Salem sky

1952 – Salem, Massachusetts
On 16 July 1952, U.S. Coast Guard Seaman Shel R. Alpert, stationed at Air Station Salem, was on duty on the Winter Island facility, working in the weather office when he saw some bright lights moving across the sky. He immediately alerted another guardsman but before he could get in position, the lights began to dim. Briefly, the lights brightened again and Alpert quickly managed to snap a photograph of them through the office window. Because the photo was taken looking through glass, some debunkers have claimed that the 'UFO' was actually the reflection of lights in the window pane. However, the Seaman's testimony that he saw four objects weakens their argument. Most Ufologists agree that Alpert filmed either a single UFO, or four UFOs moving in formation.

'Alpert filmed either a single UFO, or four

UFOs moving in formation.’

What were those strange blips on the radar?

1952 – Washington, D.C.
In a wave of sightings that began on 19 July 1952, Washington National Airport and Andrews Air Force Base picked up a number of unexplained blips on their radar screens. After several hurried conversations between the two respected institutions, it dawned on every witness with horror that UFOs were buzzing over the White House, the Capitol building, and the Pentagon. Several fast-moving, glowing ‘lights’ were also seen by witnesses from the control towers, the runway and from the cockpit of scrambled fighter jets. Over the next few days, and several shock-inducing headlines in US papers, the public began to complain that UFOs seemed to be defying the very governmental agencies sworn to protect the United States from foreign powers.

The blips that showed up on the radar monitors represented and recorded unidentified objects that travelled at about 100mph, and had the ability to accelerate to the unbelievable speed of 7,200mph. The Washington National Airport sighting was confirmed by other local radar and they contacted Andrews Air Force Base which in turn notified the U.S. Air Force Air Defense Command. A couple of F-94 night fighters were ordered to the skies but runway repairs held their mission up for several hours. Once airborne, they were able to sight the UFOs, but the 'lights' darkened as they approached. Suddenly, one of the fighter-jet pilots stated his fear and frustration by air-to-ground radio: 'They've surrounded my plane; what should I do?' The pilots kept constant communication with ground radar, and as the pilots lost sight of the UFOs, the blips also disappeared from ground radar. The UFOs were also separately witnessed by the crew of a B-25, and the pilot and stewardess of another commercial flight. The sightings still remain unexplained to this day.

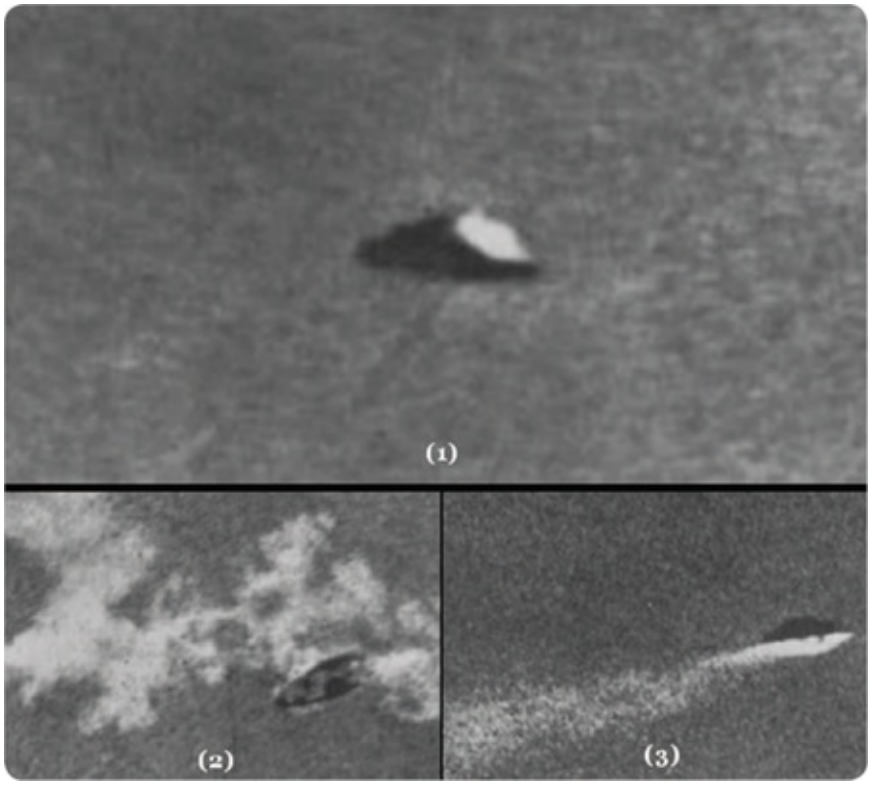
'They've surrounded my plane; what should I do?'

Sharp ‘gleam’ becomes UFO over Belgium

1955 – Namur, Belgium
On the evening of 5 June 1955, near the city of Namur, a series of three photographs were taken of an unknown flying object. The photographer, still unnamed, claims that his attention was first drawn to a sharp glint among the clouds. He heard no sound but as he squinted up at the strange light, he began to make out that it came from a disc-shaped object which left a white trail as it flew through the sky.

As he began to take his photographs, the UFO began to lose altitude, then suddenly it made a sharp turn before climbing once more to the height of the white trail it had previously left behind. As the final shot was taken, the trail began to dissipate. In the photograph shown here, it is very easy to make out the emission from the back of the craft as it moves along.

‘…a disc-shaped object which left a white trail as it flew…’



Visual evidence from self-proclaimed abductee

1955 – Rosetta, Kwa-Zulu Natal – 'The Drakensberg Photos'
South African Elizabeth Klarer was an enigmatic and self-proclaimed contactee and abductee who was said to have received telepathic messages from the so-called 'Space Brothers' since she was a girl. When her contact 'Akon' landed on Earth, she claimed that she took photographic evidence. This is one of seven taken by her in the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains on the 17 July 1955. She also claimed to have visited the home planet of Akon, eventually having a sexual relationship with the tall, white-haired alien. This union apparently produced a son who stayed on the distant planet when she returned to earth. Klarer was a well-known and respected member of South African society, working for Air Force Intelligence. Her husband was a Major in the South African Air Force. One of South Africa's most respected

Ufologists, and MUFON* representative, Cynthia Hind backed Klarer's claims, even finding witnesses to corroborate her testimonies. Klarer never reneged on her claims and died in 1994 at the age of 83.

'…she claimed to have received telepathic messages…'

The first picture of a UFO taken at night?

1965 – Tulsa, Oklahoma
A large wave of UFO sightings occurred in 1965 in the United States. From coast to coast, strange, low-flying objects were reported almost nightly by people of all ages and walks of life. As the year progressed,

the number of reports rose dramatically and on the night of 2 August, thousands of people in four Midwestern states witnessed spectacular aerial displays by large formations of unidentified flying objects.

That same night, a multi-coloured disc was photographed in Tulsa while several people watched it perform low-altitude manoeuvres. The object, seen changing, was captured on film by Alan Smith making it possibly the first photograph of a UFO taken at night. The resulting photograph was extensively analyzed, pronounced authentic, and later published by *Life* magazine and many newspapers (although some UFO researchers believe this to be a hoax made using a Christmas tree ornament).

‘…thousands of people…witnessed spectacular aerial displays…’

Hunters’ campsite is destroyed by a UFO

1966 – Roaring River, Missouri

In the history of Ufology there have been a number of reports of different kinds of beams being shot from UFOs (either to the ground or towards a person such as in the Travis Walton* case of 1975) but the events at Roaring River, Missouri are unique and very exciting for anyone interested in UFOs.

In this incident, a UFO was seen and photographed on 22 November 1966 by two hunters while they were out on a trip, trying their luck deer hunting. As one of the men was returning to the place where they had pitched their tent, he became alarmed when he saw smoke clearly rising from their camp. Running to discover what had happened, he found their large tent and other equipment almost totally destroyed and the debris, including shoes and records, still smouldering. Bizarrely, while one of the aluminum poles that supported the tent was singed but not burned, the aluminum cots inside their tent had been completely melted. Becoming aware of a humming sound, the bemused man looked up to see a strange object rising in the air from a valley below. He managed to grab his camera and took two photographs: one clear, seen here, the second very blurry.

‘…he looked up to see a strange object rising in the air from a valley below.’

The ‘best daylight photo’ investigated by the Condon Committee

1967 – Calgary, Alberta
On 3 July 1967, after a weekend spent prospecting, Warren Smith and two companions were walking through rugged country southwest of Calgary, when one of them spotted a rapidly falling object in the sky. At first they thought it was an aeroplane but when it dropped beyond the distant treeline and then rose again they scrambled for their camera. And strangely, as the object moved closer to them, they saw a smaller object fall from the craft.

Smith took two photos within seconds of each other and the first he took (shown here) has the distinction of being one of only two photographs considered ‘first priority’ by the Condon Committee*. It received high praise from leading Ufologist Dr J. Allen Hynek, who called it the ‘best daylight photo I have personally investigated.’ It was also examined extensively by the Royal Canadian Air Force Defense Photographic Interpretation Center, and deemed authentic. It is generally considered

to be one of the best early UFO photographs.

‘…as the object moved closer…a smaller object fell from the craft.’

A disc-shaped UFO came from the west

1967 – East Woonsocket, Rhode Island
At around noon on 10 June 1967, Harold A. Trudel parked his car in East Woonsocket and waited. He knew what he was waiting for; he was a skywatcher. UFOs had been seen in this vicinity and so here he was, camera ready. To his amazement, his commitment and patience was rewarded for eventually (and suddenly) a disc-shaped UFO moved into view, flying towards him from the west. The object slowed then began to hover and Trudel, hiding himself behind brush and trees, began to take

as many photographs as he could. The UFO did not stay still however but darted here and there several times so that Trudel had to change positions to gain better vantage points. However, he was able to watch the strange craft for around five minutes, and it was close enough for Trudel to notice that a type of antenna seemed to protrude from below. Eventually it flew off in a northerly direction but not before Trudel had managed to capture its extraordinary image on film seven times.

‘He knew what he was waiting for; he was a skywatcher.’

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* GEPAN (1977–88), part of the French Space Agency which took part in the French Government’s official UFO study project.

*MUFON: (the Mutual UFO Network), founded 1969, is a non-profit organization dedicated to resolving the scientific enigma known collectively as unidentified flying objects or UFOs. See www.mufon.com

* Travis Walton, a young logger, was allegedly abducted by a UFO in 1975. No trace of him was found for five days, then he appeared, disoriented and thin, maintaining that he had been taken aboard a spaceship (see Close Encounters and Beyond (1970s–80s) Introduction).

*The Condon Committee was set up by the University of Colorado and funded by the United States Air Force to investigate UFO evidence under the direction of Edward Condon.

Close Encounters and Beyond (1970s–80s)

During the 1970s and 1980s, still and motion-picture captures of UFOs were on the rise. This period was not without its controversy however, as everyone had a different opinion as to what these unidentified flying objects were.

In 1973, two Los Angeles businessmen, Robert Emenegger and Alan Sandler, were summoned to California's Norton Air Force Base to discuss a project on advance research projects. UFOs were chosen as the topic of choice and the two businessmen were told of a UFO landing that took place in 1971 at Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

Also in 1971, a remarkable case had been recorded of a UFO landing and leaving physical traces in Delphos, Kansas. Years after the incident, the area of the landing could still be seen.

Two famous cases took place in 1973. In Cleveland, Ohio, Army Reserve helicopter pilot Capt. Lawrence Coyne was approached by a 'big, grey, metallic-looking' object in the sky over Mansfield. That same year, in Pascagoula, Mississippi, two fishermen were abducted into a UFO and saw bizarre, alien creatures.

Perhaps the most famous abduction took place on 5 November 1975, in northeastern Arizona's Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. That day, a logging crew of seven men were working on a government contract, clearing the forest. The men loaded into a single pickup truck to leave work for the day. As they started their journey home they saw, not far from the road, a 'luminous object, shaped like a flattened disc'. One of the men, Travis Walton was overcome with curiosity and left the truck and approached the UFO. As the other workers watched, a blue beam

came from the UFO and struck Walton, knocking him to the ground. The workers quickly left the area in fear. A few minutes later, they decided to go back and check on Walton. Arriving at the location of the sighting, they found no trace of him. They immediately reported the incident to local authorities and a massive manhunt began.

No trace of Walton was found for five days until he finally appeared, disoriented having suffered a lot of weight loss. He was taken for medical care and, after reorienting himself, he told a bizarre story of being taken aboard an alien spaceship. His account has never been debunked.

Seven glowing orbs haunt the hillside

1970 – Tagish Lake, Yukon Territory
This extraordinary photograph of seven small unidentified glowing orbs was taken by a couple who were taking a boat trip in 1970 on Tagish Lake in Yukon Territory, Canada. Around mid-morning, the couple were steering their small open-top boat southwards through rough waters when they decided to move closer to the shore for safety. As they neared the shore, they saw seven, strange glowing objects. Four of them were fairly close, and three further away up the mountainside. The objects moved slowly in full view for about 15 minutes before they eventually grouped together. For fear of ridicule, the couple who saw the UFOs did not tell their friends who were also boating on the lake that day, but after their photograph was developed they did share the evidence with them and gave them a duplicate slide of the image. Their friends decided to submit the picture to the Weather Office for investigation. The Weather Office in turn submitted it to the Department of National Defence in Ottawa. A year later, when the friends requested to know findings of the Department, they were told that the information surrounding the case was classified. Will we ever know what it was that

they witnessed that day?

‘…they were told that the information surrounding the case was classified.’

Official mission reveals a watery invader

1971 – Lake Cote, Costa Rica
This extraordinary photograph is of what appears to be a large UFO either entering or emerging from Lago de Cote. It was taken by a Costa Rican government plane on an official mapping mission which had its high-resolution camera programmed to take photographs every 17 seconds. The plane was flying at an altitude of approximately 3km (approximately 10,000ft) when it captured this strange invader.

The area covered in this image is about seven miles in diameter and the unique features of the landscape (such as the shoreline and trees, etc.) are clearly visible. This photograph has been analyzed extensively by various organizations and individuals who have determined that the mysterious object seen in the water is more than 200m (650ft) in diameter. It seems to enter or leave the water at an angle of approximately 30 degrees in relation to the lake's surface. The overriding consensus is that this image was not artificially created or the result of any camera anomaly. However, nobody has been able to explain what it was or what it might have been doing there.

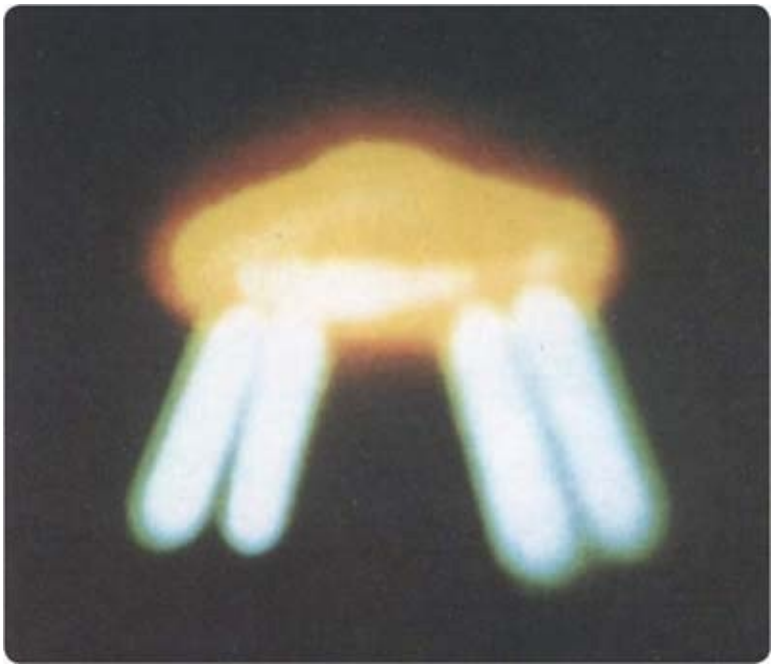
'…the image was not artificially created or the result of any camera anomaly…'

First photographic evidence of a self-luminous UFO

1974 – Albiosc Tavernes, France
This is one of the most famous UFO photographs from France, taken during a rash of sightings. The discovery of the evidence was in itself mysterious; it was first revealed to UFO researcher Jean Bedet when he found it with a note attached to his windscreen. The note was from an anonymous doctor who claimed that, after visiting a patient, he was returning home on a deserted road in the Vosges Mountains when he came face to face with this amazing glowing object.

Ufologists love this picture because it is one of the first photographs taken of a self-luminous UFO. The object appears to be semi-transparent and some have conjectured that the glow is the by-product of energy radiating from within. Some researchers claim that we are seeing a type of forcefield, the result of luminous air ionization. (Compare with the photograph from 1992 – Tepoztlan, Mexico).

‘…he was returning home…when he came face to face with this…’



Spectacular phenomenon witnessed by thousands

1976 – Canary Islands, Spain
One of the most bizarre reports of unusual phenomena occurred in 1976 in the Spanish Canary Islands. Although the case featured a most extraordinary description of aliens and their craft, the occurrence was witnessed independently by several parties who all agreed with every reported detail of the case.

The phenomenon began on the night of 22 June 1976, when residents of Tenerife, La Palma and La Gomera began to report sightings of unusual lights moving about in the sky. The next morning, newspaper headlines proclaimed that 'thousands of people' had witnessed a 'spectacular phenomena' which lasted twenty minutes. The most sensational aspect of the story was that a spherical craft had appeared which was seen to be occupied by strange alien beings. Amazingly, this was watched for a full forty minutes and at one point an intense halo of yellow and blue could be seen emanating from it. During this time, the lights of the craft changed constantly and a witness managed to take a photograph of the strange phenomena.

Three days later, the Commanding General of the Canary Island Air Zone appointed an 'Investigative Adjutant' to try to make sense of the events and details of the case quickly spread beyond the islands.

'A witness managed to take a photograph of the strange phenomena.'

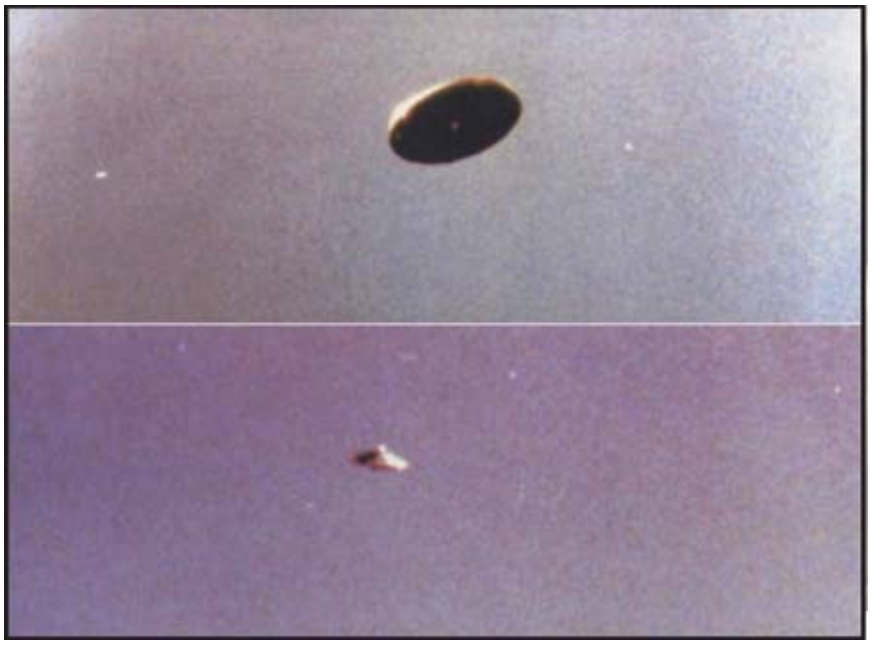
Wisconsin policeman has a strange encounter

1978 – Colfax, Wisconsin
On 19 April 1978, police officer Mark Coltrane was on patrol in the vicinity of Colfax. At about noon, he decided to stop and eat his lunch so he pulled over and parked in an isolated space. Ominously, he began to notice that his car radio was making a strange crackling sound, then something caught his eye. He looked up in surprise to see a metallic-looking disc-shaped UFO a short distance from his car. He gaped as it rose in the sky and then began to move towards him. Trained to deal with extreme situations, he had the wit to grab his Polaroid camera and jump out to take a photograph. Within a moment, the UFO began to move away but he managed to snap a second picture before it accelerated out of sight. When he looked at his watch, the entire incident had lasted only a few minutes.

He may have kept his cool but after it was all over, Coltrane was so overawed by what he had witnessed that he could not speak for several

hours, afraid to report the sighting for fear of his his co-workers' ridicule.

'…after it was all over…he could not speak for several hours.'



Touring family are not the only visitors to Vancouver Island

1981 – Vancouver, British Columbia
From 8–15 October 1981, Hannah McRoberts, of Campbell River, BC, was on holiday with her family about 30 miles to the north of Kelsey Bay on the east coast of Vancouver Island. During this five-day period she took a number of pictures of her family and of the local scenery (using her 35mm Mamiya camera with a 50–55mm lens, 125 speed and ASA 100 film). One day they observed that the cloud above a peak made

the mountain look like ‘a volcano issuing steam,’ so Mrs McRoberts brought out the camera to record the visual joke for the family album. No one in the party noticed anything else in the sky at the time, yet when the prints and negatives came back after processing, the presence of a UFO was clearly visible (above and to the right of the peak and the plume of cloud).

The photograph subsequently came to the attention of Mr David A. C. Powell of Vancouver’s McMillan Planetarium, who in turn contacted Bill Allan and provided him with an enlargement and also contacted APRO* of Tucson, Arizona. After much examination, the negative was finally delivered to Richard F. Haines, Editor of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration* for analysis. Haines determined that what Hannah had unwittingly captured in her photo of the mountain was a genuine airborne object, and not the result of emulsion deformity or an optical illusion caused by the camera’s inner mechanism.

‘Hannah had captured in her photo a genuine airborne object…’

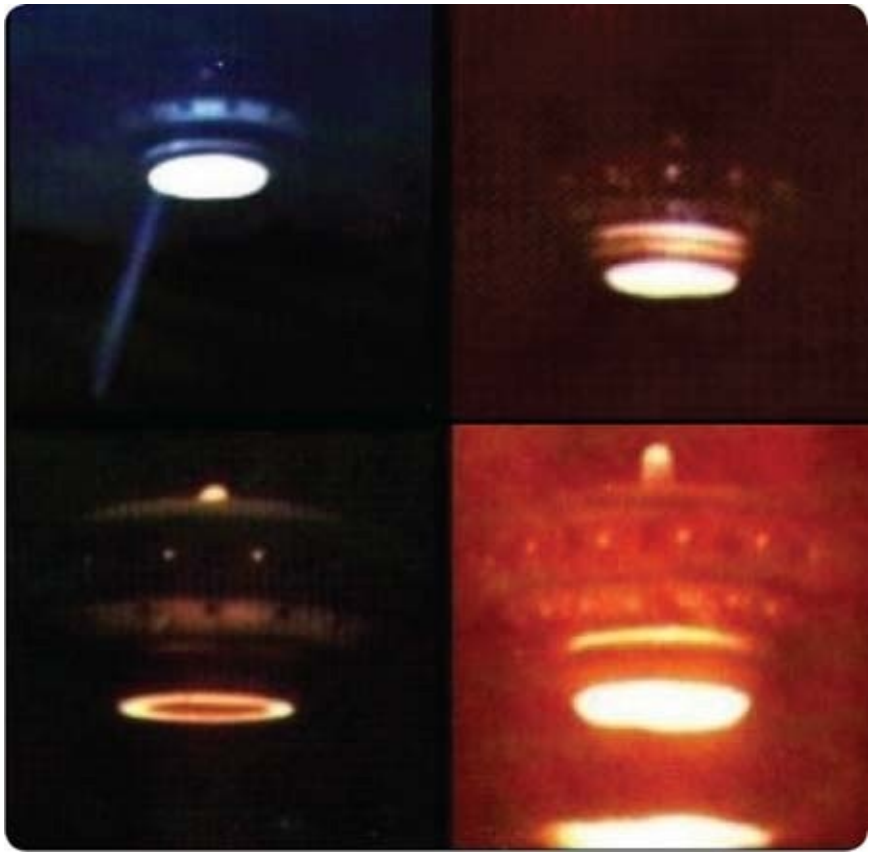
Florida in the grip of a wave of winter sightings

1987 – Gulf Breeze, Florida

Of the many accounts of UFO sightings, photographs, and videos, the sensational reports that originated in Gulf Breeze, Florida, are some of the most controversial. Gulf Breeze was a small city of approximately 6,000 inhabitants at the time of the wave of sightings that began in the winter of 1987. When news that photos *par excellence* had been taken of these unidentified flying objects, the story became a world-wide sensation and the subject of a plethora of newspaper and magazine articles and television programmes. Many people claimed to have seen the elusive flying craft and many had snapped photographs of the glowing lights, but the majority of media attention fell upon Edward Walters, a local building contractor. According to Walters, on 11 November 1987 he was working late when his attention was drawn to a light coming from his yard. As he went to the window to find out what

was going on, he saw a glowing object which was partially obscured by the 10m-tall (30ft) pine tree in his front yard. He raced outside to get a clearer view and found himself face-to-face with a ‘top-shaped’ object. He ran into his house, grabbed his Polaroid camera and managed to capture several photos of the craft. And so began the controversy: many students of Ufology still believe that Walters’ photographs are among the best ever taken; others believe the images are fakes.

‘…many…believe that Walters’ photographs are among the best ever taken…’



A pattern of very bright multi-coloured lights

Coloured lights

1987 – Waterbury, Connecticut
On 26 May, a commercial airline pilot, Randy Etting, was walking outside his home. He had over 30 years of flying experience and was now an avid sky watcher but this night was to prove different from any other. As usual, he was keeping an eye on the sky when suddenly he saw a number of orange and red lights approaching from the west. He grabbed his binoculars and called out for his neighbours to take a look. As the object flew closer, he could easily make out a semi-circular pattern of very bright multi-coloured lights displayed at its edges. The lights shimmered as if distorted by heat but no sound could be heard. The incident occured close to the local interstate and as motorists saw people standing and pointing up at the sky, they began pulling over to see what all the fuss was about. Indeed, five motorists claimed that as the UFO approached, their vehicles lost power and they were forced to pull off of the highway.

The local authorities began to receive calls from worried witnesses and a State Police officer (whose name has remained anonymous) arrived in time to take a photograph as evidence. Well respected photo expert Dr Bruce Maccabee was called on to analyze the resulting image. He was convinced that it was not a fake and estimated that the UFO was as much as 300m (1,000ft) in width. This photograph is considered one of the best UFO photographs of the 1980s.

‘…as the UFO approached, their vehicles lost power.’

*APRO: Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (active 1952–88).

The X Files (1990s)

This decade held its own for great UFO cases. One of the best known is documented in a video film taken from a police helicopter of an unknown object in Florida in 1991. Sheriff department employees, Mark Patterson and Jim DelaRosa, captured it using a FLIR camera. The object appears to be of a barbell shape. Its origin has never been explained.

Beginning in late 1989, and running through half of 1990, the extraordinary UFO phenomena in Belgium would gain worldwide attention. Numerous sightings were reported of triangle-shaped UFOs during a wave of occurrences, establishing 'the triangle' UFO as a standard.

The 1991 case was instrumental for Ufologists because a number of reports were logged by police officers, who gave their evidence without ridicule. They described low-flying, illuminated objects that made not a sound.

On several occasions, F-16 fighter jets hunted down these triangular craft, even locking on to them with radar, only to see them speed away. For reasons unknown, good photographs of the trianglular UFOs were few and far between.

The Belgian wave did finally produce two excellent photographs; one taken in Petit Rechain in April of 1990, and a second taken in Wallonia in June of 1990 (see 1989–1990 – The Belgium Triangles).

1993 brought a 'mini-wave' of sightings of triangle-shaped objects to the UK. Throughout late March, the unknown flying objects were seen and reported by many, including policemen. There were several hundred reports of the UFOs, mostly seen in the small hours of the night.

The famous America West Flight 564 encounter occurred over Texas in 1995. The flashing lights of a UFO were seen by crew members and also logged on radar by NORAD. No conventional craft was ever discovered to have been flying at the time in the area of the sighting.

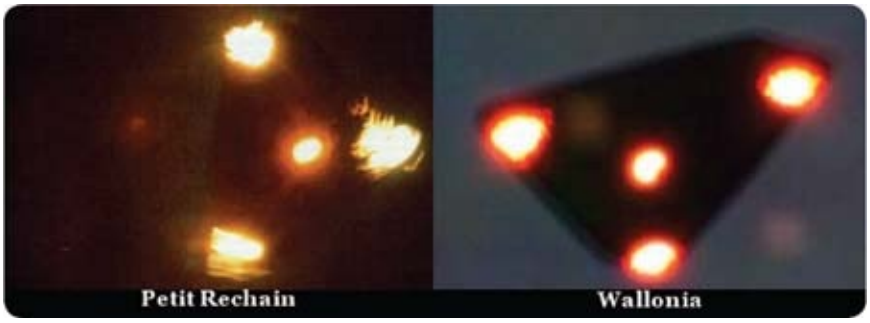
Another significant case worthy of note is the 1996 Klondike Highway sightings in the Yukon Territory. Several witnesses saw a smooth, solid object over a frozen lake. More than 20 witnesses reported sighting the unknown flying object which has never been identified.

Giant triangular craft fly silently over Belgium

1989–1990 – The Belgium Triangles
One of the most celebrated 'waves' of UFO sightings occurred in Belgium at the beginning of November 1989. There were no less than 30 groups of eyewitnesses which included three groups of police officers. Almost all reports describe large, low-flying craft, triangular in shape. Witnesses also testified that the UFOs were silent as they moved across the Belgian landscape. The objects were tracked as they moved from the town of Liege to the border of the Netherlands and Germany. More than once, F-16 fighter jets chased the UFOs, even locked them on their radar, but very quickly the triangles flew away. In one riveting event, several radar stations caught a triangle on their screens, but the object did not send a transponder signal.

This series of sightings generated two very important photographs. The first image was taken at Petit Rechain in April 1990, by an unnamed photographer, which shows one of the craft with lights below. The second image was taken by J.S. Henrardi on 15 June 1990 in Wallonia, it closely resembled the Petit Rechain photograph. Many Ufologists believe these images are definitive proof of the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft.

‘…these images are definitive proof of the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft.’



A noiseless craft moves over Scotland

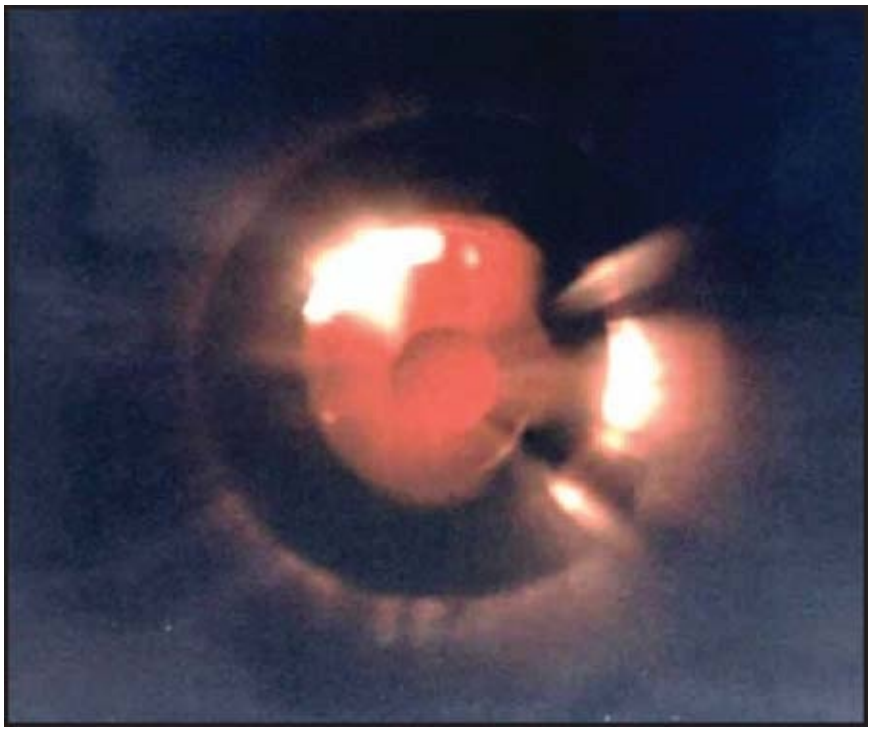
1991 – Grangemouth, Scotland
On 12 November, at about 9:30pm, two friends were out taking photographs for a project called ‘Light and Dark.’ Here is one of the men’s description of what happened that night.

‘My friend and I were taking photographs of the BP chemicals plant in Grangemouth (from Polmont Reservoir) when we noticed a dim, or rather, two small dim flashing lights over by the two ‘flashing pylons’ at Kincardine Bridge… We watched the object, which we thought was a helicopter, fly slowly over from the bridge to above the brightly lit Grangemouth Stadium. We watched it hover for around five minutes. It was then that we noticed that the ‘craft’ wasn’t making any noise. … Normally, if it was a helicopter, we would have heard the blades. It then turned around and faced our direction. It was roughly 600m (2,000ft) above the ground, then it dipped and dramatically increased in speed. At the point of the photograph, it was about 60–90m (200–300ft) directly above us. It was then that we heard the light ‘pulsing hum’ of the object. My friend and I were quite shaken at the time, but afterwards had an

overwhelming sense of excitement.'

This photograph is considered authentic by many Ufologists, and shows a very rare view of a UFO flying directly over the photographer.

'…a very rare view of a UFO flying directly over the photographer.'



He saw an orange light coming from the mountain

1992 – Tepoztlan, Mexico
This photograph is one of the most dramatic photographs in the history of Ufology. It was taken by Carlos Diaz, who would become one of the

most controversial contactee characters of UFO lore. Diaz began his connection with UFOs in the early hours of 7 June, when he drove to the Ajusco National Forest, south of the capital city of Mexico City. He was on an assignment for a magazine to photograph a sunrise in the mountains. He parked his car, waiting for the first glimpse of the sun. All at once, he saw an orange light coming from the mountain slopes ahead of him. He thought at first it might be a fire, but then he realised that he was witnessing a UFO. He fetched his camera and took a photograph at which point his car's engine inexplicably shut off. What he had experienced was confirmed when his photos were developed that afternoon. As a result of this event, Diaz felt compelled to return regularly to the same spot. Only a few months later, he witnessed the same orange UFO as it hovered over the top of a hill. He climbed towards it until he stood in front of it and suddenly felt someone touching his shoulder. He fainted and when he came to, the UFO was gone. Later, he began to recall what had happened. He had been contacted by the pilot of the UFO, an event which would repeat itself many times as the years went by and he took numerous outstanding photographs and videos of the so-called 'Ships of Light'.

'He fainted and when he came to, the UFO was gone.'

An astonishing vision is posted on a website forum

1993 – Meridian, Idaho
This photograph came to light when a member of the 'UFO Casebook' forum posted it into the public domain on 31 January 2005. We need more information to make a proper analysis of the image but we do know some of the basics. The photograph was taken in 1993 on the outskirts of Meridian, Idaho. The photographer was so excited by what he had captured on his camera that he made copies and sent them to various UFO websites and organizations. However, the response was cool, as no one seemed to take the photograph seriously. The witness on the other hand was convinced by what he had seen. Apparently he watched the disc-shaped UFO with a rounded top for about a minute and a half as it circled around, changing its speed as it went. At first sight, the UFO moved at an incredible speed which he compared to that of a jet plane. Then, for a brief period of time the object hovered in one place, giving the witness the opportunity to take this one photograph. It then moved at high speed again, gaining altitude and disappeared into the distance. The noise of an engine was not detected but the witness did

hear a ‘whooshing’ sound as it flew off.

‘At first sight, the UFO moved at an incredible speed…’

Some of the best evidence to come out of Mexico

1993 – Ocotlan, Jalisco, Mexico
Considered one of the best UFO photographs from Mexico, this image is one of several that were taken by Don Raul Dominguez. On 24 April, his dog quite suddenly began to growl then dropped to the ground and Dominguez’s attention was drawn to a copper-coloured disc-shaped object in the sky. It appeared to rise from a hillside and he could clearly make out a band toward its base which, as the UFO glowed, was spinning counter-clockwise. No sound was heard coming from the object and Dominguez felt the temperature of the air around him drop. He was also amazed to see that branches of trees close by were being affected by some ‘force’ coming from the UFO. After regaining his composure, he

found a proper spot for taking photographs and took an entire roll of film and six more from a second roll.

Guadalajara UFO investigator Fernando J. Tellez stated, ‘It is by far the best case in Mexico, and one of the best five in the world today…With fakes, you worry about people who too conveniently made a sighting; people who only provide you with a photo, without offering strips of negatives; people who want to remain anonymous; and those who want some kind of compensation.’ Dominguez was always ready to discuss his encounter and never made money from his photographs.

‘…his dog quite suddenly began to growl then dropped to the ground…’

Evidence that persuaded the Hungarian UFO network

Hungarian UFO network

1996 – Szabolcs-Szatmar, Hungary
On 27 October, Lajos Kosina was at the house of his girlfriend's parents in Szabolcs-Szatmar, Hungary when he asked her to pose for a photograph. Later, when his photos were developed, it was discovered that a UFO could clearly be seen in the background. Even though they thought that the object was strange, they did not show the photograph to anyone for quite some time. Eventually, they did share the photograph with a friend who delivered the photograph to HUFON*.

The negative was analyzed using optical and computer programmes and HUFON concluded that the object in question was really evidenced in the image and was not the result of any fault in the camera or the film's processing. They also stated that, in their view, the photograph was not a hoax but showed a real, disc-shaped UFO, several metres in diameter. Interviews with the couple only validated HUFON's findings.

'…the photograph was not a hoax but showed a real, disc-shaped UFO.'

[*]HUFON: the Hungarian UFO Network.

Everyone's Got a Camera (Latest Sightings)

The beginning of the new millennium brought yet more photographs. Better quality cameras at affordable prices meant a greater proliferation of UFO images just when reports were increasing as more eyes were looking to the skies. (And hopefully, some of the photographs contained in this book will dispel the notion that there are no clear photographs of UFOs.) However in my research, I have had my work cut out for me because while better cameras have made it possible to capture great evidence, more advanced computer graphic software have made it easier to manipulate images and create hoaxes.

When the new millennium came, there was no diminishing in the number of reported UFO sightings. The decade began with a bang with a wave of multiple-witness sightings being reported over Illinois in 2000. Two years later, in 2002, a FOX News crew captured one of the first 'rod' UFOs over Albany Airport in New York. Many more reports of the rod-shaped UFOs were logged throughout the 'Noughties'.

In late 2006, UFOs made worldwide headlines, when employees of Chicago's O'Hare Airport reported a UFO. Eyewitnesses described it as a metallic disc-shape that hovered over the busy airport. Suddenly, the UFO shot up, blasting a hole in the sky. 2007 brought us an excellent report of a UFO estimated to be a mile wide. Two experienced airline pilots saw the object from different locations off the coast of Alderney (the third largest of the British Channel Islands). One of the pilots made a TV appearance describing the occurence.

The most covered UFO event in recent news however, was the numerous sightings over the Texan city of Stephenville in 2008. Creating instant

worldwide media coverage, the reports encouraged the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) to hold a town meeting to interview the numerous witnesses, many of whom produced video, photographs and drawings as evidence. The same year would bring a wave of sightings over the UK that lasted for months and was again reported in the press.

It was also about this time that a number of countries released their UFO files which has had the effect of encouraging many more people to become interested in and to research the UFO mysteries. Hopefully this trend will continue, bringing us closer to understanding and resolving many of the questions that still lie behind the fascinating UFO phenomena.

Compelling image from an anonymous source

2001 – Foster City, California
The photographer of this compelling image is known only by the name of 'Ilem'. The photographer took at least two photographs in a short period of time. A second photo shows a UFO of a different shape. The photograph is clear and striking. Taken in the last fading rays of sunlight, the UFO is obviously of a metallic construction because a light source clearly reflects from the object. The most unique aspect of the UFO is that windows or portholes can be seen circling its circumference just below its midline. I have no reason to believe that the photograph is faked or hoaxed. If it is real, it is undeniable proof of the existence of UFOs.

'...windows or portholes can be seen circling its circumference...'

The RAW file that revealed a spheroid visitor

2001 – Mammoth Mountain, California
This photograph is one of the very first UFO images taken by a professional photographer, Ron Reznick. He was on top of Mammoth Mountain taking photographs of the awesome landscape around him when he inadvertently captured this extraordinary sight. (He used a Nikon D1, with a Nikkor 17-35mm f/2.8D AF-S EDIF lens, which he states was in excellent condition at the time.) Reznik did not notice the object until he got home and started processing his photos. He states that he had no reason to add it or invent the object, and even if he did, he would not have been able to alter the RAW image file, which was offered for analysis.

Reznick had unwittingly recorded the presence of a spheroid, transparent craft with the sun reflecting in its right-hand side. The UFO is quite unique, and its presence is not in question but its origin is.

‘…its presence is not in question but its origin is.’

What did claim the interest of the British Royal Navy?

2003 – Plymouth, Devon
Several photographs taken by John Nicholls in early 2003 show an unknown object over the city of Plymouth in Devon. Nicholls was a dock worker who was testing out a new camera (a Nikon DX1), and on 28 January, at St. Budeaux Square, took five night-time photos of the city. Two of the photos captured the UFO. The photographs were so important that they drew the interest of the Royal Navy, who studied the images.

The possibility of this being a photo of a helicopter was explored, but that theory was dismissed when it was found that Plymouth City Airport picked up nothing on the night the images were taken. At the time this photograph was taken, it was considered one of the best UFO images

taken in the United Kingdom. The image impressed a number of national newspapers and publications but received minimal coverage outside the UK apart from on UFO-related forums and websites.

The images were investigated by Bob Boyd, Plymouth UFO Research Group. Boyd states: ‘There is no doubt in my mind that it’s the real thing.’ The photographs were also confirmed as genuine by a photographic expert called Tim Farrell, who is an associate of the Cornwall UFO Group. This is certainly an important photograph for UFO students to ponder.

‘…an important photograph for UFO students to ponder.’

A valuable and haunting piece of evidence

2003 – Weyauwega, Wisconsin
The woman who took several photographs of an unknown flying object in February 2003 in Weyauwega, Wisconsin, was visiting a friend at the time. She was taking some pictures outside that evening while her son was sledging in the snow. Shortly before dark, her son pointed up to the sky, and alerted her to some approaching lights and she began taking photographs. She stated that the unknown object moved like a balloon, except for the multiple lights, which changed through cycles. The UFO passed almost directly over their heads and then moved away. As it moved over, she wondered whether it could be a balloon but it appeared more like a disc-shaped object. She could not explain what it was to her son.

A number of Internet sites have displayed and commented on this Wisconsin photograph, with the idea that the photograph falls into the 'too good to be true' category. True, the photo is very clear, and since the general consensus of UFO photographs is that they are usually hazy, or unclear, that premise is understandable. But, if this is a legitimate image of a UFO, it is a very valuable and haunting piece of evidence.

'She could not explain what it was to her son.'

An aerial encounter with something from another world

2004 – Big Bear Mountain, California
While flying over Big Bear Mountain on 27 May, in a small Cessna plane, the pilot and two passengers encountered what appeared to be something from another world. The beauty of the landscape was reason enough for one of the passengers (simply known as Boris) to have his camera, but what he captured in one image was beyond his wildest imaginings. Hoping to get another shot, the pilot flew the Cessna toward the UFO, only to see it disappear before his eyes. The craft seemed to get broader just before it instantaneously disappeared. All the other photographs taken during the trip that day showed nothing unusual. The three men had hoped to find someone else who might have seen the unusual flying object, but no one else came forward with any information to corroborate their story.

‘The craft seemed to get broader just before it

instantaneously disappeared.’

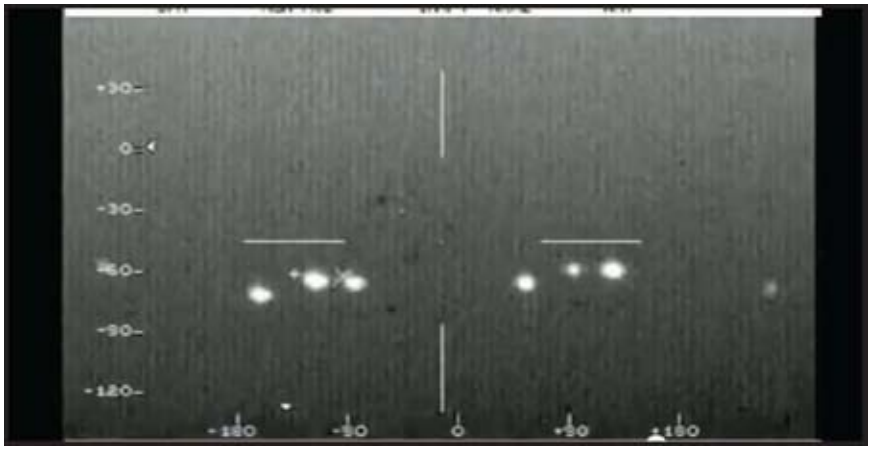
As many as eleven UFOs spotted in the Mexican clouds

2004 – Copalar, Chiapas and the State of Campeche, Mexico
On 5 March, a Mexican Air Force Merlin C26/A, was carrying out drug interdiction patrols between Copalar, Chiapas, and the State of Campeche. At about 5:00pm, as many as eleven unidentified flying objects were detected in the clouds. The plane, belonging to the 501st Air Squadron, was flying at 1000m (3,500ft), when the objects were first seen on radar. The UFOs were also picked up by the plane’s forward-looking infrared (FLIR) equipment.The pilot immediately made chase, but the UFOs were soon lost in the clouds.

The crew of the Merlin consisted of eight monitoring specialists. Three of

the crew, pilot Major Magdaleno Castañón Muñoz, radar operator Lt. Germán Martin Ramirez and FLIR operator Mario Adrian Vázquez Tellez were interviewed by the news media. In a unique gesture, Mexican military officials released to the world, video footage of these UFOs. The official release was authorized by the Mexican Secretary of National Defense, Ricardo Clemente Vega Garcia. There have been attempts to invalidate the sighting, stating that various ground reflections were caught by the plane's camera. These claims have never been established, however, and the sighting maintains an important place in Ufology.

'The UFOs were also picked up by the plane's forward-looking infrared (FLIR) equipment.'



A saucer hovers at an angle over the tree line

2004 – Provo Canyon, Utah
Here is an extremely compelling UFO photograph that was featured on CNN and in the Associated Press. The unknown object clearly shows itself to be a disc-shaped object with cupola. It was taken in Provo

Canyon, Utah, on 18 May 2004. On that day, Tommy Woodard, who worked for the Utah Film Commission, was doing his job in the Provo Canyon. He had finished his official duties, taking about 100 photographs. He then took some for himself. Only this one image contained anything out of the ordinary. Skeptics have attempted to write the object off as a bird, but it is obvious to the careful observer that this is not the case. Woodard did not see anything untoward when he took the photo, and only noticed it later when reviewing his work. He too, was skeptical at first, but when he zoomed in on the photo, he was sure that the object was a UFO. The object in the photo has a purple glow and is hovering at an angle above the tree line. Some have claimed that the object may be nothing more than a speck on his lens, but none of his other photographs showed any such anomaly. The photograph has gained a lot of attention and it is very difficult to debunk it. It is a classic UFO in every sense of the word, and backs up many people's belief that we are not alone.

'[It] backs up many people's belief that we are not alone.'

Atmospheric occurrence or portal to another dimension?

2004 – Sri Lanka
This photograph was taken by a Royal Air Force officer during a holiday in Sri Lanka in March of 2004. It is one of two photographs taken of what is being termed an 'unusual atmospheric occurrence.' It was only released via Great Britain's UFO file release of early 2011. Not a typical craft by any means, it nonetheless is there, and certainly unidentified. The pilot states that he heard a clap of thunder, followed by the appearance of this unusual sight. He says that the object did not rise but headed towards the Earth. The geographical position of this occurance is interesting for Sri Lanka is noted by some to be a hotspot for UFO sightings as well as a host of other natural phenomena. Could what the pilot saw that day be a portal to another dimension, revealed by this captured energy burst?

The photographs were submitted to the Ministry of Defence by way of RAF Fylingdales, which is a Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station near Pickering in the North Yorkshire Moors, in northeast England. British Ministry of Defence officials pondered over the photograph, but arrived at no definitive conclusion. The Ministry's stance is that unless an unknown object is considered as a threat to the national security, it is of no significance.

'He says that the object did not rise but headed towards the Earth.'

An inexplicable discoid shape appears over Taipei

2004 – Taipei, Taiwan
Taken in September, 2004, by Lin Qingjiang, this photograph appears to show a discoid-shaped UFO. The strange apparition was first spotted at about 10:00pm as Lin rested outside his house. He would later state that the UFO changed direction five times, flying first in an eastward and then in a westward direction. He called others to see the object but by the time they arrived the object was no longer visible. However Lin had the photograph as evidence and soon his image was made public on a Chinese web page.

As phone cameras began to take a larger percentage of photographs, some problems also began. The low quality of the photos made some images difficult to investigate. The digital age brought camera lenses with a chemical coating, which under some conditions, would cause a phenomena called ‘lens flare.’ The flares are caused by light being reflected in the camera’s lens. This can be caused by a bright light source in or out of the frame. This created a problem for anyone investigating

phenomenon in the sky. The general populace began to associate any type of round light source as lens flare, but at times, this is not the case, as in the photograph from China.

‘He would later state that the UFO changed direction five times…’

Mexican fiesta attracts many new visitors

2004 – Ticul, Yucatan State, Mexico
In the latter stages of 2004, a series of UFO sightings took place in the skies over Ticul in Mexico. An excellent photograph was taken on 12 December, 2004, by Silvestre Leal and Emilio Cetz Aguiar of a traditional disc-shaped UFO, during the celebration of the feast of the

Virgin of Guadalupe. The object was surrounded by coloured lights and it hovered over the grounds of the San Benito football field. Video footage was also taken but unfortunately the quality was poor and provided no probative value.

The flurry of sightings brought UFO investigators to the area and a night-watch was formed. In total, over 150 photographs were taken, with the one shown here being the most compelling.

Many of the photographs taken during the sightings were studied, and all conventional flying objects were ruled out as a possible explanation.

‘…all conventional flying objects were ruled out as a possible explanation.’

Golden treasure appears amid Brazilian rainbow

2005 – Avare, Brazil
Cesar Aquilino, an amateur photographer, got a surprise when he was taking photographs of a rainbow on 15 November 2005. At the time, he was enthralled by the natural phenomemon and did not notice anything unusual: Cesar is an avid photographer, and always looking for a great shot, especially those from the nature around him. It was only when he was reviewing his cache of photos that he was shocked to see a golden, oval object in one of his pictures. After pondering its significance, Cesar sent it to me with as much information as he could deliver, keeping all of the original photographs and EXIF data in his Canon EOS 20D camera.

The object seems quite unique in that some type of appendage attached to, or part of, the UFO can be seen at an angle. What this apparatus may be is anyone's guess. Could it be an antenna of some type? Whatever the case, this is certainly a photograph worthy of study, and holds an important place in Ufology.

'…he was shocked to see a golden, oval object in one of his pictures.'

Flying high in the Texas skies

2005 – Kaufman, Texas

During the first decade of the 21st century, the area of east Texas became known as a hotspot for UFO sightings. I have to thank one of the most prolific photographers of these phenomena (who I came to know as Larry) who lives in the city of Kaufman, for sending me numerous photographs and videos of his evidence of these spectacular sightings. There are so many that it feels only right to display an amalgam here, showing highlights from his collection. The photographs were included in a special television programme on ABC news affiliate KLTV in Tyler but they have not as yet received the attention they should have. Whatever the truth behind these pictures, they never fail to intrigue. We may never know what flew in the Texas skies that day.

The top photograph was taken on 21 January. Larry was out taking photos of chemtrail shortly before noon and aimed his camera at a small cloud. As he did, he noticed a flash in his viewfinder. When he reviewed the image it looked like he had captured a speeding golden object in the frame. To his surprise and delight, this was confirmed when he brought up the image on his computer later. He noted that the UFO appears to have what would seem to be an energy field or gaseous substance above it. The picture below it was taken on 21 March and appears to show either a two-layered object or two objects travelling in close proximity.

‘…he had captured a speeding golden object in the frame…’

Oblivious to a near encounter in Argentina

2006 – Sierra de la Ventana, Buenos Aires

It is commonly found that when a UFO is caught on camera, the photographer notices nothing unusual at the time the picture is taken, probably because they are focussing on a different subject. It is only when the images are printed or brought up on screen later that a different object becomes the main focus of interest. This is the case with this Argentinian photograph, taken on 21 November 2006, between 3:00

and 4:00pm, in Sierra de la Ventana, Province of Buenos Aires which was reported by Alicia Darvriex from Trelew, Province of Chubut. She was with her family returning from a trip to Buenos Aires by car when, about 320km (200m) from Nechochea, they pulled over to take a break. Before they got back in the car, Alicia's father snapped a picture of her mother and aunt (using a Canon A530, 5 megapixel camera). His attention was not drawn to anything in the sky at that time. However what is clearly visible in the resulting picture is a a disc-shaped UFO which seems to be flying very close to the ground. Authorities who examined the photograph stated that no commercial or private airplanes were in the vicinity at the time the photograph was taken. Curiously, closer inspection reveals what may be two landing legs protruding from below the craft. Had it just taken off? Or, even more disconcertingly, was it preparing to land?

'…closer inspection reveals what may be two landing legs…'

Luminous proof of inter-dimensional theory?

2006 – Ipiales, Colombia
In 2006, I received four photographs to analyze. The sender made himself known to me only as 'Freddy'. All were taken on the weekend of 18–19 November 2006 and the most compelling of the four is revealed here. It shows a striking, luminous orb on the distant horizon just below the cloudline. The sky is cloudy but it is quite doubtful that this extraordinary sight could be explained by a lens flare or camera anomaly. Luminous spheres are common in numerous 'images of UFOs' but many are easily explained away as lens flare, or other light anomalies reflecting in or off other surfaces such as a window, normally quite close to the photographer at the time the shot is taken. This is not the case here.

I have received numerous comments on the photo: naysayers believe that the camera flash could have been responsible for what we see, but as this photograph was taken during daylight hours, with sufficient light, this theory does not hold water. Those who believe in the authenticity of the photograph, believe that 'Freddy' witnessed an event which can be explained by inter-dimensional theory. This theory supports the argument that UFOs often cross from another reality into ours. It also suggests that the luminosity we see here is a by-product of the energy required to accomplish this task – a theory yet to be proven. Freddy called the unknown phenomenon a 'plasma UFO', and the luminous orb electromagnetism, or the energy used for the UFO to make the transition into our world.

'…Freddy called the unknown phenomenon a "plasma UFO".'

Evidence of two visits to the wide Texan skies

2006 – Kaufman, Texas
These two separate photographs were taken within a month of each other in or near the east Texas City of Kaufman, during the late summer or early autumn of 2006. The first photograph was taken at about 3:00pm (one of five taken in 'burst' mode). The photographer was shooting cloud formations and did not notice anything out of the ordinary in the sky at the time. Later as he reviewed the photos, he noticed something strange in the first photos of the series. The cameraman was surprised for he surmised that the object (which appears to be a disc-shaped object with cupola) must have been moving extremely fast to escape being captured in the other four frames.

The second image was captured on 5 September 2006 at 7:17pm. The photographer was again taking shots of clouds, this time towards the end of sunset, using 'burst' mode once more to take two shots, the first of which shows what appears to be a round object of unknown origin. Both of the objects in these pictures appear to be structured craft of some kind

but neither are recognizable as any conventional flying object that frequents the skies over east Texas.

‘Both of the [unknown] objects…appear to be structured craft of some kind…’

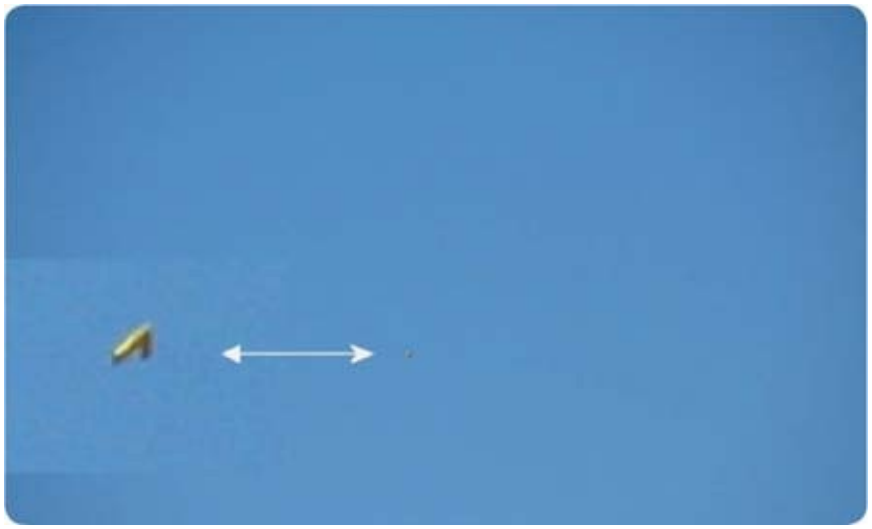
Unique V-shaped object flies high above Escondido

2007 – Escondido, California
On a clear Saturday afternoon, a man and his girlfriend were out jogging by San Pasqual High School in Escondido, California. When they reached the top of a hill that overlooks the football stadium, they noticed a bright, star-like object approaching from the east. As the object came

closer, they were able to make out that it was a a very smooth-structured, V-shaped object. The top of the craft appeared to be made of a highly reflective, golden metal. The bottom was a duller colour and did not seem to reflect light.

The man had a camera inside his backpack and managed to get a shot of it. He described it as silent and slow-moving – much too slow for an aeroplane. As they watched, the object began to bank to the north and then reversed its direction, at which point they were able to see the side of the object for the first time. They watched for a time until the object suddenly tipped on its nose and disappeared from view in a matter of seconds.

‘…they noticed a bright, star-like object approaching from the east.’



Tourist takes tantalising image from a train

2007 – Moonta, Australia

2007 – Moonta, Australia

In 2007, I received a UFO sighting and photograph submission from a man in Australia who had taken a trip with his family over the Easter weekend. On 6 April, the man and his family were on a scenic railway tour when the the train stopped to give the tour guide an opportunity to lecture the tourists on a point of local interest. At around 2:15pm, our submitter noticed something in the sky. He watched it for a few seconds, and then took one shot of the object. He attempted a second shot, but as he raised his camera, he could not find the object any more. When he first saw the UFO, it was completely stationary, and made absolutely no sound (causing him to rule out any type of conventional aircraft). He asked the tour guide what it might have been and was told that there were no airports in the area. The object seems to possess an unusual and unique shape, appearing to have a bifurcated undercarriage above which a smaller more compact element of the UFO stands proud.

‘When he first saw the UFO, it was completely stationary…’

Sixteen superb seconds captured on camera

2007 – Oregon
The images seen here are video frame grabs from a compelling video that was submitted to me. Taken in Oregon, between Eagle Point and White City on 20 March 2007, the videographer first spotted the object in the sky as a small, shiny, white dot. There were no aeroplanes or helicopters in the area at the time and it was somewhat cloudy that day but there had not been any rain. At first, my contact, who was travelling in a truck with her husband, laboured to keep the small UFO in the viewfinder as the camera bounced up and down, but finally she was able to zoom in and record the phenomenal object. She marvelled that the colour of the UFO darkened as it sped through the clouds, just above the mountains.

Eventually, a tree blocked the object from her view, but not before she had filmed 16 amazing seconds of video. She and her husband both expected that when they later reviewed the film on their television it would turn out to be a plane. However, they were surprised to see it for what it really was: a metallic, classic disc-shaped object.

I am so very fortunate to have been sent this submission for it is, in my opinion, one of the best videos ever taken of a silver disc. No other video has yet compared for authenticity and clarity.

‘No other video has yet compared for authenticity and clarity.’

Tremendous twin sighting in Texas

2007 – Texas

I received the photograph shown here from a woman whose husband was a real estate agent in the state of Texas. According to his wife, he often had to photograph property that a client was selling or attempting to purchase. In 2007, he was asked by a potential buyer to search for prospective properties and when he found an apartment complex that looked appropriate, he took a number of photographs. Later, when he and his wife were looking through his shots at home, they saw to their surprise, two unknown objects flying above the complex. They were sure that they were not conventional planes, or other craft that might be expected to be seen in the skies. The agent's wife sent the photographs to her brother, who thought at first that they were playing a trick on him, and that they had used a photo-editing program to 'fake' the appearance of two approaching UFOs. Upon close inspection however, the two

objects appear to be classic, disc-shaped objects with cupolas. There is no hint of any type of photo alteration or fabrication.

‘There is no hint of any type of photo alteration or fabrication.’

An intruder is spotted amid the lightning

2008 – Winnipeg, Manitoba
In 2008, I received a UFO sighting report, with an attached photograph, of an incident that had occured at the end of May. The evening in question was stormy and, as the winess left work and headed home, his trip was marred by wind, lightning and rain. It was about 10:35pm when he arrived at his house and it was still raining. He parked his vehicle in the garage and, as he did so, he remembers that his surroundings were suddenly lit by a very bright light for several seconds. He had the distinct impression that something had just flown over his garage, so he

got his camera and readied himself to photograph whatever was going on outside. As lightning continued to light up the skies around him, he began snapping photographs. He was not taking pictures of anything in particular, just the storm and lightning and, at the end of his session, the skies had begun to clear. Later, when he reviewed his photos, he was shocked to see something totally out of the ordinary in one of the frames. The object appears to be a vortex-shaped, semi-transparent, glowing anomaly, quite different than many other unidentified flying objects.

‘…a vortex-shaped, semi-transparent, glowing anomaly…’

Strange shadowy craft invades holiday snaps

2008 – Galacia, Spain

I received a UFO photograph from a gentleman who had returned from a summer holiday in the Galacia region of Spain. While he was taking the usual holiday snaps of the scenery, he had seen nothing of particular significance in the sky. Later that night as he and his family looked over their photos on their laptop computer, they noticed an unknown flying object in three of their photographs. These had been taken in 'burst' mode, meaning that only a fraction of a second elapsed from one photo to the next and thus the high shutter speed would have captured a bird clearly without distortion, ruling this out as a possible explanation for the strange shadow in the sky. After receiving the initial submission, I was informed that there were no planes, hang gliders or balloons of any type in the skies that day and that the submitter was certain he had heard no noise of any kind while taking his photographs. He also added that if a plane had been captured in one photograph, it would not have had time to clear the area for a second photo.

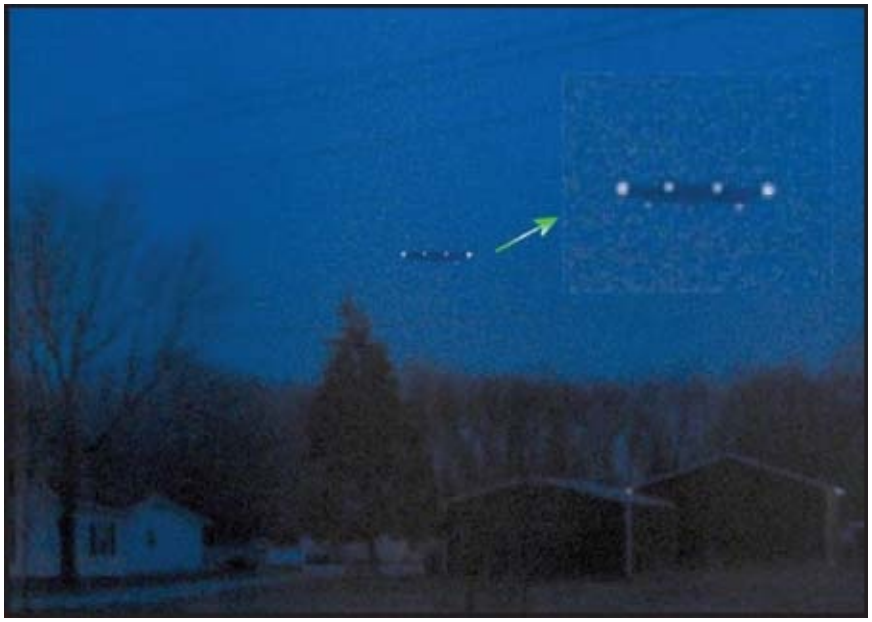
'…they noticed an unknown flying object in three of their photographs…'

Lights hover above isolated Indiana home

2008 – Indiana
On 31 January, the photographer of this image was alone at his home in a sparsely populated area of Indiana. He was going to the kitchen to get a glass of water when he saw something through his bay window. At first he thought it looked like a helicopter flying about 100m (roughly 300–400ft) away. As he watched, he realised that the craft made no noise, and it was not, as he had first suspected, a helicopter at all.

He estimated that he watched the object for several minutes before he ran for his camera. Whatever it was continued to hover there in the same place, its lights unblinking. As he secured his camera, it was almost dark and he managed to take one photograph of the object before the camera battery died. Thinking quickly, he grabbed his mobile phone, and took a second photo. The UFO then flew directly away from him, toward the west, rising as it left with incredible speed. This sighting had a profound effect on him, leaving him unable to sleep for several nights. The UFO was unlike any craft he had seen before.

‘…it was not, as he had first suspected, a helicopter at all.’



Bronze UFO caught on camera in Costa Rica

2009 – Costa Rica
On Friday 10 April 2009, Dr Rafael Lamas, General Director of Nuclear Medicine at Calderon Hospital Guard in San Jose, and a man of integrity, was taking a long-awaited vacation. Using a Hewlett Packard MZ67 digital camera with 6x zoom, he was entertaining himself by taking photographs of the boats in the waters of Playa Mantas. After his holiday, he was reviewing the pictures he had taken when one in particular caught his attention, for there at the top left of the frame was a very unusual flying object. This perplexed him for he had not seen anything out of the ordinary on the day he was taking photos, but then he rationalized that his attention had been on the boats, not the sky. He did not recall any kites, balloons or hang gliders during his trip, and certainly did not recognize the unknown flying object. The UFO captured here is certainly one of the strangest I have seen. It appears to be of a dark bronze colour, with a small top, and some apparatus attached to the bottom. Dr Lamas' experience was corroborated by

several other confirmations of more UFO sightings in that area.

‘The UFO captured here is certainly one of the strangest I have seen.’

What shone above that spectacular English sunset?

2009 – Ely, Cambridgeshire
This photograph, taken on 23 September 2009, at about 7:15pm was submitted by a reader from England. As the lady was concerned with recording the amazing sunset, she did not notice anything unusual in the skies that evening and she snapped innocently away, taking five photos with a digital Kodak Easyshare camera. But when she reviewed her shots, one frame contained this unknown flying object. There are several similarities between this phenomenon and those semi-transparent, self-luminous objects that seemed to be captured by the controversial Carlos

Diaz (see 1992 – Tepoztlan, Mexico photograph).

Feedback I receive on these types of pictures runs the gamut. Some believe that all of the semi-transparent anomalies are simply camera malfunctions, lens flare or perhaps atmospheric anomalies. Others believe them to represent spaceships from another world or dimension. As the number of believers in inter-dimensional theory grows, there is still no proof. And yet no one has disproved it. In the meantime, photographs like this are of great interest to those with an open mind and cannot be easily dismissed.

‘Others believe them to represent spaceships from another world…’

Something ‘punched’ holes in the clouds

2009 – Estonia

On 13 August 2009, a photographer, Avo Siim, from Estonia was taking pictures of the wind turbines near the town of Virtsu on the country's western coast. What he actually caught on camera that day shocked him and prompted him to submit his photographs for examination and evaluation.

It was a fine day with some cloud cover when Siim set out upon his work. One of the cloud formations caught Siim's attention and when he took a closer look he could not believe his eyes. For it seemed incontrovertable to him, that 'something' was punching holes in the clouds from above. As he studied the strange scene before him, he could also see that whatever was acting upon the clouds was also causing whisps of clouds to fly out in spiralling movements. As he continued to observe this phenomenal sight, he ensured that he had taken several photographs as documentary evidence. He hurried home in order to study his photographs and to his amazement he was rewarded with this result. A disc-shaped object can clearly be seen in front of the cloud cover whose undercarriage remains in shadow while the sun is reflected on the topside of the craft. 'I did not see the UFO with my eyes, so it must have been fast,' noted Mr Siim. His photographs were delivered to two UFO experts in Estonia. They both deemed the photos legitimate and attested to the good character of Mr Siim.

'I did not see the UFO with my eyes, so it must have been fast'

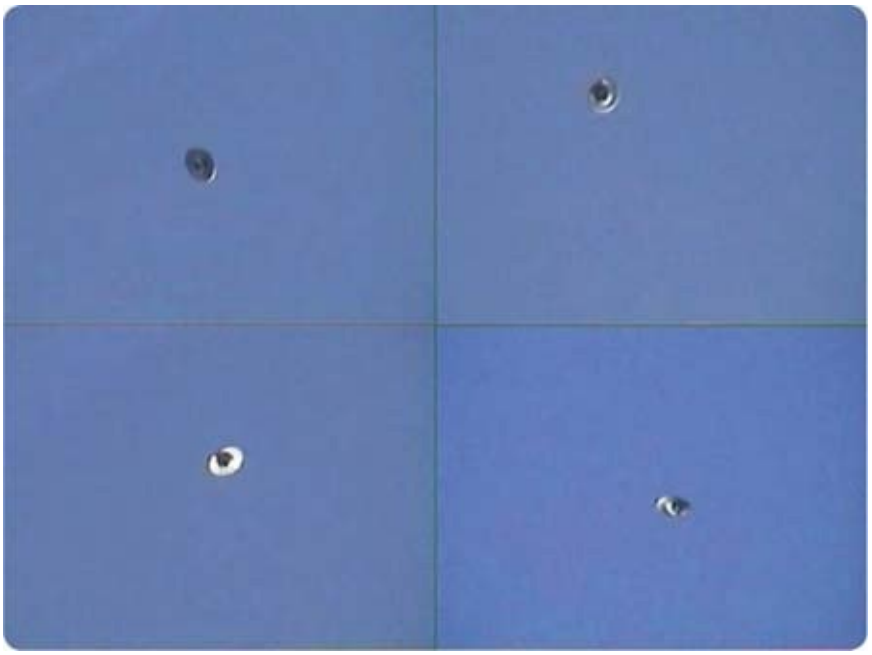
Four frame-grabs catch a classic disc with cupola

2009 – Lake Havasu, Arizona

The images seen here are four frame-grabs from a video taken at Lake Havasu, Arizona, on 3 July 2009. Some UFO students believe that the object is actually a balloon or kite but there has been no proof that the images were faked. Lake Havasu in Mohave County is known by local residents as a great lookout spot for UFOs. The city of more than 50,000 inhabitants does have an airport but there is no indication that the object seen four times on the opposite page is a conventional aircraft. The videographer claims that he was looking out of his back window when he noticed what first appeared to be a small, dark spot in the distant sky. His curiosity was piqued and he ran to grab his binoculars. He took a look and was shocked to see a metallic, disc-shaped flying saucer and, for a minute or so, he had trouble making his brain accept what his eyes were seeing. The UFO hovered at times, and then began slowly to move across the sky. Quickly, he began to video the object. After a while, the object moved so far away, it again appeared only as a small dot in the sky before he eventually lost sight of it. If they are authentic, they are some of the best images of a traditional flying disc

with a cupola that I know to exist.

‘…he had trouble making his brain accept what his eyes were seeing.’



Shots of London skyline reveal four surprises

2009 – London
In March 2009, Derek Burdon was taking photographs of the London skyline with the camera on his mobile phone from the rooftop of Orion House in Covent Garden. At the time, he noticed nothing unusual in the sky. Later, while reviewing his efforts, he was shocked to see four unknown objects in one of the photographs. Either the UFOs were invisible to the naked eye, or he had simply missed them as he focussed on the view before him. When the photographs were made public, the

usual arguments ensued; UFO believers thought the objects were genuine UFOs; debunkers cried ‘lens flare’, ‘camera malfunction’ and ‘hoax’. In defense of his photograph, Burdon stated that he had not in any way tampered with the photo and that the picture would have been impossible to fake. The photograph clearly shows four white, flying objects. They appear to have a slightly curved base and a top of some type.

‘The photograph clearly shows four white, flying objects.’

Sixty-shot reward for skywatchers’ vigilance

2009 – Long Beach, California
On 17 March 2009, a number of photographs of unknown objects, or perhaps one unknown object, were taken over Long Beach at about 8:00pm. The photographer and his sons were frequent sky watchers and

they were always ready to take pictures of anything of interest. While watching the skies this night, the father saw something that was quite unusual. Suddenly, moving from west to east, an unidentifyable flying object appeared in the sky. It had no FAA regulation red light. It began to hover then moved again in several different directions back and forth. As the object altered its position, it could be established that the FAA green light was also not visible. The total observation time was about 26 minutes, allowing them to take almost 60 photographs (the majority in 8 second exposures on a Sony Cybershot camera.) It would not be long, having been alerted by other witnesses, before the local authority's ten helicopters arrived on scene but by then the UFO had faded into the night sky. The photographer concluded that there were possibly several UFOs in the sky that night. The image shows a circular craft with a row of lights running around its edge. The witness remains in awe of that 'incredible' sighting and turned his testimony and photographs over to us so that they could be properly investigated.

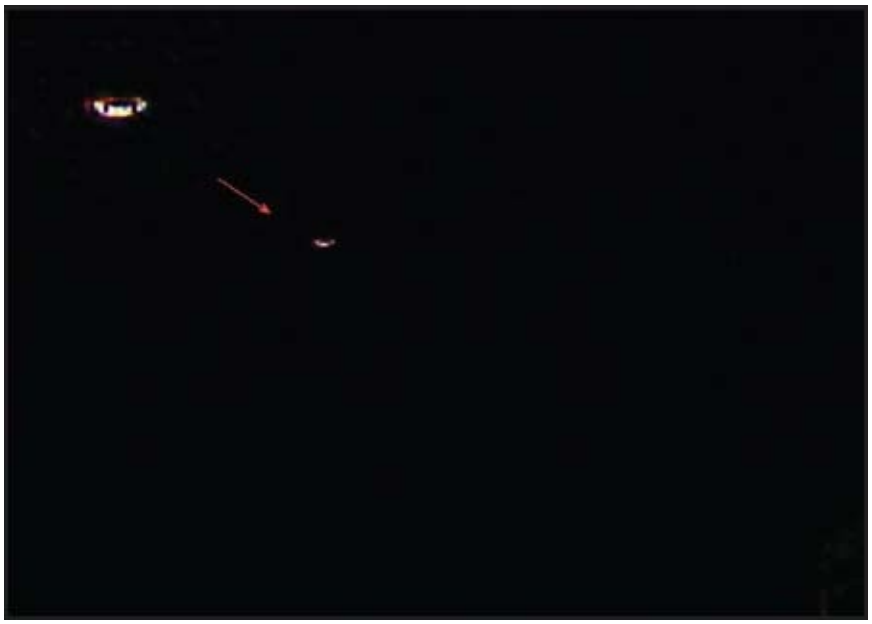
'The image shows a circular craft with a row of lights running around its edge.'

Father and son report night-time encounter

2009 – North Carolina
A building sub-contractor and his 12-year-old son saw something quite unusual on 5 March 2009. As they were walking towards their car in the early evening, their attention was grabbed by a distant light in the sky. It was moving quite erratically and they realised that it was a UFO. It appeared to be five or more miles away and was moving at about 25–30 degrees above the horizon. At last, the strange object stopped moving and it sat motionless for five minutes in a clear, cloudless sky allowing them to take pictures of it on their digital camera. They could clearly see that it was circular in shape with a solid center and that many coloured lights emanated from its edges. It hovered silently then took off to the north, moving at a high rate of speed.

So enthralled were the pair that they watched, hoping for it to reappear, for many days. They were to be disappointed; it never returned. Unlike those who report UFOs who are looking for their 15 minutes of fame, the contractor made it clear when he submitted this image, that he expected no money for his photo and wishes to remain anonymous.

‘…many coloured lights emanated from its edges.’



Multiple sightings of ‘discs of light’ in Australia

2009 – Palmerston, Queensland

In April 2009 two men from Queensland spotted a mysterious white light as it moved through the night skies. That same month, several other sightings had also been logged, including photographs of two UFOs from a woman who described them as two ‘discs of light’ which she accidently caught in the frame of the picture she took on her mobile phone during a storm. Her photograph only corroborates the sighting of a UFO by Michael Baker, a resident of Nerang. On the same day, he had seen an unknown object in the sky above the Shopping Center in Worongary. Yet another report came from Ian Mayes who was walking with his young daughter Chloe along the Peregian Beach when he saw a ‘bright, white light’ in the sky. When asked about the reports, an astronomer suggested that the witnesses could have seen a meteor shower. However, all those that saw the lights claimed that the objects did not move quickly enough for that to be a sufficient explanation for what was in the sky that night. The two UFOs in the photograph shown

here are very clearly defined, and therefore could not be moving at a high rate of speed and could almost be stationary.

‘…all those that saw the lights claimed that the objects did not move quickly…’

A very British wave of sightings over Shropshire

2009 – Telford, Shropshire
Several sightings of UFOs occurred in the month of January in Telford – one of many so-called ‘waves’ that have taken place in the UK. One of the most remarkable events produced photographs of an unknown object flying over Donnington. (This picture was taken in the day. There were other images of the same UFO taken after dark but the poor quality of the images make them difficult to analyze.) One witness a little further

north at Tern Hill that day, reported sighting six or more red-and green-coloured UFOs as he was driving on the A53 toward Market Drayton. He was able to see the objects clearly for they were moving very slowly. (This particular report was explained by military officials as being a sighting of helicopters, but the reporter strongly disagrees.) A UFO investigator in the area claims that Donnington is often associated with UFO sightings and the area has become known as one of Britain's 'hot spots.'

The UFO captured here was over Telford. The photograph was taken on a partly cloudy day and shows what appears to be a weighty, disc-shaped object of a dark grey colour. The sun can be seen reflected in its right-hand side.

'…[the UFO] appears to be a weighty, disc-shaped object of a dark grey colour.'

Mystery lights fly along the

Mystery lights fly along the highway

2009 – Texas

On 20 March, a man was heading home from Carlsbad Caverns with his wife and son at about sunset when they saw four unknown objects moving about 15m (50ft) above some houses on the horizon beyond their vehicle. They were moving vertically in the sky and as they travelled they could see their lights pulsating. The man pulled his vehicle to the side of the road so that they could take a closer look. By this time, there were only three UFOs visible and they appeared to move in a triangular formation. As they watched, the objects began to rise in the air until they were as much as 300m (1,000ft) high. Without warning, the objects began to move northward and one of the objects appeared to lag behind the other two. The witnesses claimed that at times, the three objects even appeared to be part of a larger structure. After a while, a fourth object reappeared, and then, without warning, all the objects simply disappeared. Their flight pattern had paralleled Highway 285. The man grew up on various Air Force bases and prides himself on being able to identify any military or commercial aircraft. What he witnessed that day was not like anything he had ever seen in his life. He attempted to take photographs of the object with his camera, but as fate would have it, the batteries were dead. However, he did manage to capture the photograph shown here with his 14 megapixel mobile phone camera. He also claimed that the objects were close enough for him to hear engine noise, but he heard none. There is no evidence that the photograph has been altered in any way (he explains that the slight blurriness of the picture is from keeping the focus on the objects as they moved to his left). The houses shown at the bottom of the photo were about 800m (0.5 miles) from his location.

‘…the objects were close enough for him to hear engine noise, but he heard none.’

Air passenger captures UFO mid flight

2009 – Turkey

The image shown here of an unidentified flying object is one of the few that have been taken from a commercial flight. On 10 January 2009, the photographer was on a flight from London to Doha in Qatar. According to the in-flight GPS screen, the plane was over Turkey when he spotted it below the plane. He took a number of photographs near the Black Sea. The position of the plane in relationship to the sun meant that its reflection from the water below made getting a good shot difficult. Most of the passengers were asleep and he was actually only intending to take photos of the sea. There were a number of small clouds in the sky at the time. Later, after he arrived at his destination, he began to look over his photographs. To his surprise, he noticed what appeared to be a flying object in one of them. He had not seen anything unusual at the time but the sun had been interfering with his visibility. The man submitted his photographs hoping that someone could explain what the object was. It appears to be elongated and disc-shaped (unlike any of the many, small

clouds that were in the sky that day). The photograph does not appear to have been manipulated in any way, and remains a mystery.

‘To his surprise, he noticed what appeared to be a flying object…’

Strange force affects strength of fisherman

2009 – Wurzburg, Germany
The photographer of this image described a strange encounter with a UFO over the city of Wurzburg, Germany. On 8 March, he was walking near railway lines by the River Main looking for a good fishing spot. As night drew near, it became colder and he decided to call it a day. It was only then that he noticed that a strange silence had fallen around him. This was disconcerting but worse was to come. He became aware of an odd sensation in his body and then began to feel very weak. It was then

that he saw the object in the sky. At first sight, it was hovering just below the clouds, fading in and out of view at times behind them. Then it seemed to maintain its position and later he would estimate that the entire encounter lasted no more than 15 seconds. The strange feeling that had overcome him was still affecting him and the silence was broken only by a light wind. He knew that he was witnessing something unique. As the UFO began to move slowly away, he had the presence of mind to grab his mobile phone but when he looked through his viewfinder, he saw nothing but stripes and the picture function button would not work. He made several attempts to take a photo and finally, when the object had flown some distance away, the camera worked. The UFO appears to be a flat grey-coloured disc, with four lights below; three of which appeared blue-white and the other red. (The witness works as an administrator for the City, and has requested that he remain anonymous.)

‘He became aware of an odd sensation in his body…’

Unique shaped flying object on a

Unique shaped flying object on a mission in the Spanish skies

2010 – Acojeja, Tenerife

The photograph shown here was taken by Annelies Middel on 5 November at exactly 11:08am, in Tenerife, Spain. It is a wonderful shot which has brought forth the usual debunkers who claim that the UFO in frame is either a bird or insect. Annelies has responded to this suggestion by stating that Tenerife has no large bugs, and none of the resident birds would in any way match the shape, size or colour of the object seen. A plane can also be ruled out, as the UFO matches no other conventional flying machines. In fact, the UFO is unique in appearance: flat-bottomed with the appearance of what, some have speculated, could be a diagonally pointing landing rail. The top of the object also has strange and unidentified features the like of which I have not seen before. It can be said without reservation that the object is made of metal, but what kind of flying machine it was or the reason behind its mission in the skies that day, we will never know.

‘…the appearance of what, some have speculated, could be a…landing rail.’

Sydney to Melbourne flight attracts mysterious follower

2011 – Sydney–Melbourne Flight

The report of this UFO sighting and photograph was made public in January 2011. It is one of the rare photographs of an unknown object taken from a commercial plane, snapped while the plane was in flight from Sydney to Melbourne at approximately 8:00pm local time. The passenger was an amateur photographer and had intended to take some photos of the flight (using an Olympus Digital Camera, Model FE340, X855, C560) as it neared its destination. He was particularly interested in clouds. To accommodate the window shape, he placed his camera in a vertical position. While looking through the viewfinder searching for a good shot, his attention was drawn to something in the sky; a ball-shaped, metallic sphere. He pressed the picture button and captured the object. Looking for a second shot, he was disappointed to find the object had gone. He does not believe the UFO flew away but simply disappeared. The lack of blur in the image makes the photographer believe that the UFO was pacing the plane and therefore flying at 700–

800kmph (450–500mph), at an altitude of about 18,000m (11 miles). The object appears to be a round object of a metallic material in which the sun's reflection is caught. It would be extremely difficult to explain the object away as a conventional craft.

'…the photographer believes that the UFO was pacing the plane…'

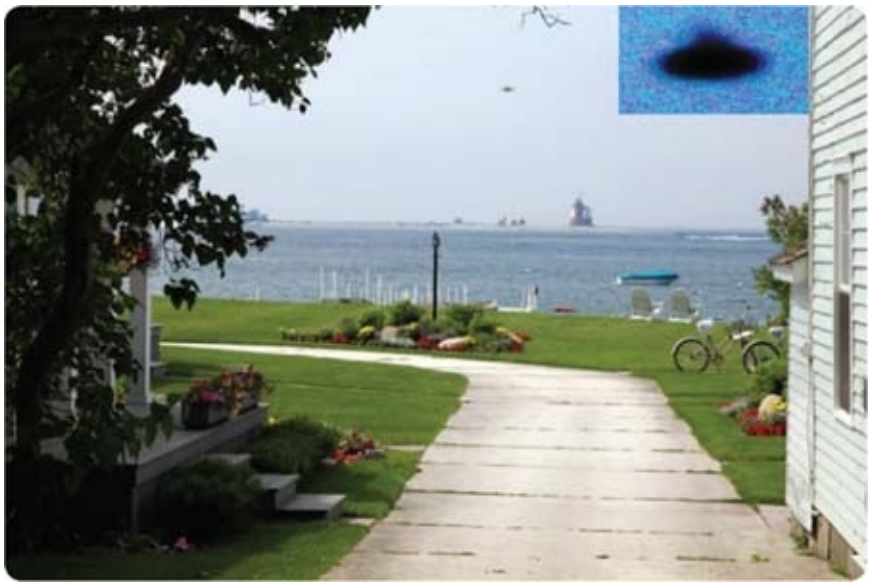
Vacation photographs reveal an unexpected visitor

2011 – Mackinaw Island, Michigan

I received this image from a reader who requested help in identifying what she captured on camera on July 2, at Mackinaw Island. She had been on holiday with her family for the 4th of July holiday and, as an avid photographer, had found a beautiful place on the island to take some photos of their trip. At one point, she took about 12 photographs of the same view which all differed very slightly in angle. Later, she discovered that, of the dozen photos, one contained a surprise – a distant, unknown flying object. No one else in her family saw anything unusual as she was taking photographs but there it was; a disc-shaped object with what appears to be a raised top.

The distance of the object from the camera makes it difficult to come to a definitive conclusion about what the object may have been, but it does not appear to be a plane, balloon, or any other everyday object. The photographer told me that she was sure there were no kites, paragliders or planes in the sky at the time, and she is certain that it was not a bird.

‘…a disc-shaped object with what appears to be a raised top.’



Nashville, Tennessee plays host to night-time visitors

2011 – Nashville, Tennessee
On 5 June 2011, at 9:44CST, the photographer was at the corner of Riverside Drive and Eastland Avenue in Nashville looking up to the night skies, when he saw something quite extraordinary. Luckily he had his Thunderbolt phone camera with him for it soon became clear that he was looking at a triangular formation of orange-and amber-coloured lights, unlike anything he had ever seen before. He did not know for certain if the three lights were part of one craft or were separate flying objects. In either case, he estimated that the area filled between the group of lights was larger than that of a football field. He believes that the objects were moving over a nearby river and that the group of lights was rotating clockwise. They moved in a north-easterly direction and finally faded from view (with the rear lights fading before the front light).

There are more reports today of this type of configuration than any other. A number of these can be explained by citing the current vogue for sending 'Chinese Lanterns' into the sky. However, it is always good to make public a sighting, however 'normal' it might appear, because it often draws out other similar stories which may help us to put together a bigger picture. Every case must be examined on its own merits.

'…the area…between the group of lights was larger than that of a football field.'

New Jersey sighting sparks much speculation

2011 – South Kearny, New Jersey
On 17 June, three photographs were taken of an unidentified flying object over South Kearny, New Jersey. The photographer had just gone outside from their work place to take a look at an incoming thunderstorm. A colleague accompanied them. As they observed the heavens, a large bolt of lightning flashed across the sky. They waited for more of the same, when suddenly a UFO appeared before their eyes. The photographer remembers asking their colleague: 'What's that?!' The colleague made several guesses. A bird? A plastic bag picked up by the winds of the storm? But really both of them knew that there seemed to be no rational explanation for what flew above them that day. The photographer asked their colleague to keep the object in sight while they ran to grab their camera. Using their Panasonic DMC-TZ3, with a 10x zoom, they proceeded to snap three photographs of the object as it flew from over their work place before the building obscured it from view.

The object itself appears to be a dark metallic, disc-shaped object with something hanging from it. There has been much speculation about what

the ragged-looking parts may be. One plausibe theory maintains that the object had just taken off from a forested area, pulling tree branches and vegetation with it as it flew away.

‘There has been much speculation about what the ragged-looking parts may be.’

Two UFOs spotted amid Texan storm clouds

2011 – Texas

On the night of 24 May, at 1:26am, a man taking photographs of a thunderstorm captured something strange; not one, but two unidentified objects in the sky. The man’s main hobby was photographing clouds and he took the opportunity to go out immediately after the thunderstorm had ended. Normally, he used his regular camera but this time he had only taken his mobile phone with him (a Samsung SCH-U750). As he

looked up into the sky, he did not see anything odd or unusual and took a number of photographs before he went home. It was not until two days later that he sat down to review the storm photographs. To his surprise, he noticed two unknown objects in one of them and he decided to request an analysis.

There has been a wide range of feedback to this picture. Some negative but many positive (quite common for all photographs of 'UFOs'). After hearing the many pros and cons, I think there are a couple of things that can be stated without reservation. The photograph does not appear to have been altered in any way. And to debunk the 'raindrop' theory; I have seen hundreds of photographs taken during and after rain storms, and raindrops on a camera lens do not produce perfectly round objects in photographs.

'The photograph does not appear to have been altered in any way.'

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all of the individuals who have given me permission to use their photographs in this publication. A number of the photographs used in this book are in the public domain and are readily available on the Internet.

I encourage you to use my book as a reference point to seek out new information and background on these photographs.

I want to thank the folks at David and Charles who approached me about putting this book together, especially Neil Baber. They were all kind and most helpful throughout the process.

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B J Booth

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